

Player Profiles • World Football • Youth Football • Poster • Team Profile

SOCCER

AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 1996

N°20 \$4.95

*Commercial TV:
what future for
soccer?*



PROFILES

*Robert Enes
Paul Souris
Adelaide City*

*A complete
wrap up of the
Ericsson Cup*



NEW ERA FOR THE BLUES

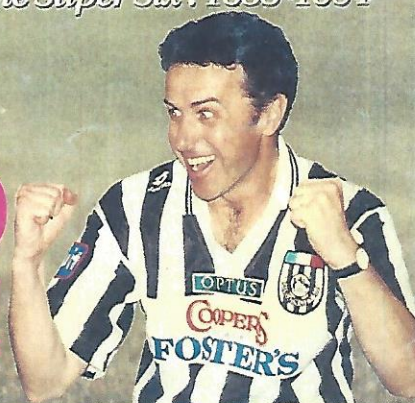
*South Melbourne's
new stadium*

EUROPE'S BEST

'The Super Six': 1955-1994

SANTO CILAURO SPEAKS OUT!

FRONT
LINE



ENOUGH SOCCER TO MAKE ANY FAN DRIBBLE

UK
CHARITY SHIELD
LIVE

ITALIAN CUP
(COPA ITALIA)
(SEMI-FINALS)
LIVE

SCOTTISH FA CUP
(SEMI-FINALS)
LIVE

SPANISH
FIRST DIVISION
GAME OF
THE WEEK

ENGLAND v
SWITZERLAND
(INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDLY -
NOVEMBER 16)
LIVE

EUROPEAN
CUP WINNERS CUP
(QUALIFYING ROUNDS)

EUROPEAN
CUP WINNERS CUP
(SEMI-FINALS)
LIVE

UEFA CUP
(SEMI-FINALS)
LIVE

UEFA CUP
(QUALIFYING
ROUNDS)

EUROPEAN
CUP WINNERS CUP
(FINAL)
LIVE

ITALIAN LEAGUE
(SERIE A)
GAME OF THE
WEEK

GERMAN LEAGUE
(BUNDESLIGA)
GAME
OF THE WEEK

GERMAN LEAGUE
(BUNDESLIGA)
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

UEFA CUP
(FINAL)
LIVE

ENGLISH
COCA-COLA CUP
(SEMI-FINALS)
LIVE

PORTUGUESE
FIRST
DIVISION
GAME OF
THE WEEK

CHILEAN
FIRST DIVISION
GAME OF THE
WEEK

ENGLISH
COCA-COLA CUP
(FINAL)
LIVE

ASIAN
SOCCER WEEKLY
HIGHLIGHTS

SCOTTISH
PREMIER DIVISION
GAME OF THE WEEK

FUTBOL
MUNDIAL
WEEKLY
WORLD
SOCCER
WRAP

ITALIAN CUP
(COPPA ITALIA)
(FINAL)
LIVE

SCOTTISH FA CUP
(FINAL)
LIVE

SCOTTISH FA CUP
(QUALIFYING ROUNDS)

EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
(QUALIFYING
MATCHES)

SCOTTISH
COCA-COLA CUP
(FINAL)

SCOTTISH
COCA-COLA CUP
(SEMI-FINALS)

WORLD CUP HALL
OF FAME
PROFILES
LEGENDARY WORLD
CUP PLAYERS

SELECTED
INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDLY
MATCHES

PREMIER GOALS
WEEKLY SOCCER
WRAP WITH
ANDY
PASCHALIDIS

ENGLISH FA CUP
(SEMI-FINALS)
LIVE

ENGLISH FA CUP
(FINAL)
LIVE

ENGLISH FA CUP
(QUALIFYING
ROUNDS 3 - 6)
LIVE

THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY
(HIGHLIGHTS ENGLISH FA CUP
QUALIFYING ROUNDS)

ENGLISH FA CUP
(QUALIFYING
ROUNDS 1 - 2)

PREMIER
sports

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GALAXY

GOING PLACES

It is increasingly difficult to resist the notion that Australian soccer is on the verge of something big.

Beyond the hype of the new season and new corporate sponsorship, there is plenty of evidence, especially on the park, that the game in this country is heading places.

We've lost plenty of players to overseas clubs, but who can complain with the quality of players in the Ericsson Cup at the moment?

Kalac leaves, Petkovic emerges. Muscat goes, Farina returns. This is going to be the nature of the domestic competition in this country at least until the end of the century.

While we should be trying to retain players here at home, we should not pretend that the sky is falling every time a talented youngster takes off for greener pastures.

There's plenty to capture the imagination including the rebirth of some top talent in the form of Francis Awaritefe and Kimon Taliadoros - two players who left their previous clubs in less than happy circumstances, but have flourished at new homes, namely Marconi and UTS Olympic.

Similarly, Paul Trimboli's return to the international scene was nothing short of a delight. Seeing him carve up the Kiwis in front of 9000 fans was a pleasure to watch.

We need to remind ourselves, and others, that this talent is on display every week in most cities in Australia.

We should not, however, allow ourselves to forget for one moment that more work needs to be done - in fact, we are only at the base of the mountain we have to climb if soccer is to compete in the hearts and minds of the majority of Australian sports fans.

As a sport, we have a knack of maintaining some of the bad habits which should have been shed a long time ago.

In Round 8, fans invaded the pitch during the match between Sydney United and UTS Olympic. Pitch invasions have a way of turning up on nightly news bulletins.

Those images make parents think that they can't take their kids to soccer games because it is not safe. Those images reinforce the almost rusted-on prejudices people have that watching soccer is a violent, unruly pastime. Those images confirm in the minds of an already biased sports media that soccer cannot get its house in order. Those images have to be stopped.

Senior administrators should immediately fine clubs whose supporters enter the playing arena en masse. Further, the same clubs should lose championship points. Fans who want to bring the game into disrepute have to learn that ultimately their actions will have severe consequences for the club they support.

On a brighter note, this edition of Soccer Australia brings you some top quality journalism on a wide variety of subjects.

Commercial television has always been a hard nut to crack for Australian soccer, so David Porter asked the networks about covering the local game.

His report provides us with some interesting views, and a few surprises. It's highly recommended reading.

Soccer and comedy may not have a lot in common, unless you're Santo Cilauro.

One of the prime movers behind the hit TV show Frontline, Cilauro is a passionate football fan to say the least. Patrick Mangan spent three hours with the man watching videos and discussing the greatest game on earth.

We've also got an Ericsson Cup wrap up by Ray Gatt, Phil Micallef on Europe's 'Super Six', player profiles, a club profile on Adelaide City, and plenty more.

Soccer Australia is this country's most innovative and informative football publication. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Sam Prentice
Editor

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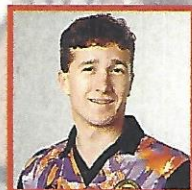
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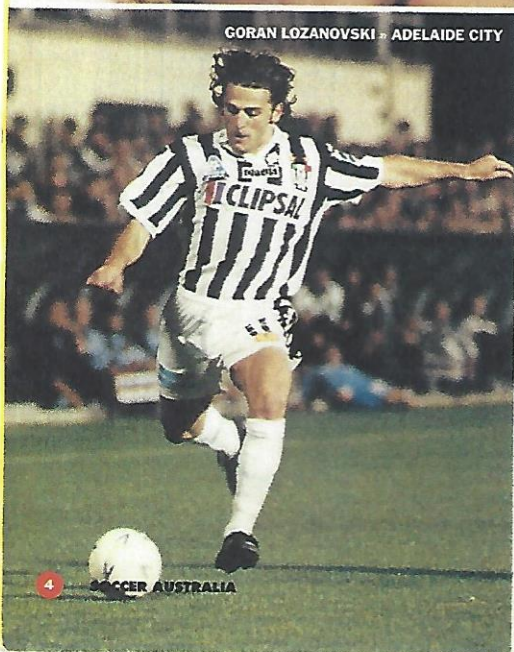
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UP AND



GORAN LOZANOVSKI • ADELAIDE CITY



ALAN HUNTER • BRISBANE STRIKERS
JOE SPITERI • MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

The Ericsson Cup has begun, and already it promises to be an unforgettable season. Ray Gatt analyses the early form of your team.

AD RUNNING

It's early days yet and it would be a foolish person who could declare with any sort of confidence that they know who is going to win the 1995-96 Ericsson Cup.

At the time of writing, Australian soccer's premier competition was six rounds into a championship which has already had its fair share of excitement, shocks and controversies.

The teams, of course, are still jockeying and sorting each other out. Some coaches are experimenting with formations and players, and some have been brave enough to try something different ... and good on them.

Olympic's David Ratcliffe, for instance, has been using a 3-4-3 system for home matches and his speedy and in-form strike force has been causing problems for rival defences.

Results have been mixed and the leader board has obviously changed a number of times.

Naturally, with another 27 rounds and seven months to go of what should be a torrid season, we won't be any wiser as to which team will hold the trophy for some time yet.

But in this early season report card we can at least tell you how your team is faring so far and whether there is scope for improvement in their form or whether they should start rebuilding for next season.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD (first): Generally, new coach Manfred Schaefer should be well pleased with the opening six rounds. Not many fans would have expected Marconi to be the competition leaders at this point.

The club has bought some quality players, though the one glaring problem is the lack of a playmaker in the middle of the park. Francis Awaritefe has been a big hit already at the club with four goals, including an early candidate for goal-of-the-season against Adelaide City. Now they have their nose in front who is to say they cannot go on with the job? Rating (out of 10): **7.**

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS (second): The defending champions are going along quite nicely, thank you. There's a minimum of fuss in the way they are handling the pressures of attempting back-to-back titles.

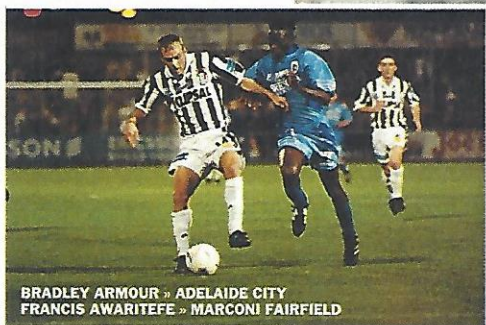
While many had tipped the loss of Mark Viduka and Steve Horvat as potentially catastrophic, the Knights appear to have taken it in their stride. Certainly, the capture of Soccerroo John Markovski is a tremendous boost. Soccerroo and Olyroo Danny Tiatto is having a great season so far and he, along with Markovski and Joe Spiteri, is a constant threat to any team. Rating: **8.**

UTS OLYMPIC (third): What a difference from the rabble of the last couple of seasons. New coach David Ratcliffe has worked wonders, instilling new found confidence and will-to-win in this oft-troubled club.

Olympic's 3-0 demolition of Wollongong City in round six was as good a performance as I've seen from the team for some seasons. Just about every player is pulling his weight with the likes of the classy Milan Blagojevic at sweeper, Kimon Taliadoros, David Barrett, Nick Meredith and Kris Trajanovski standing out. The super quick front-line will cause rival defences huge problems. Rating: **8.**

SYDNEY UNITED (fourth): United has played some pretty football in patches but, like last season, its form in front of goal has been pretty awful.

A total of just five goals in six games is not good enough if they are to build



BRADLEY ARMOUR & ADELAIDE CITY
FRANCIS AWARITEFE & MARCONI FAIRFIELD

on their semi-final appearances of the last two seasons. While coach Branko Culina has been under pressure recently and has got himself into trouble with some quotes in the media, he can't go out there and score the goals.

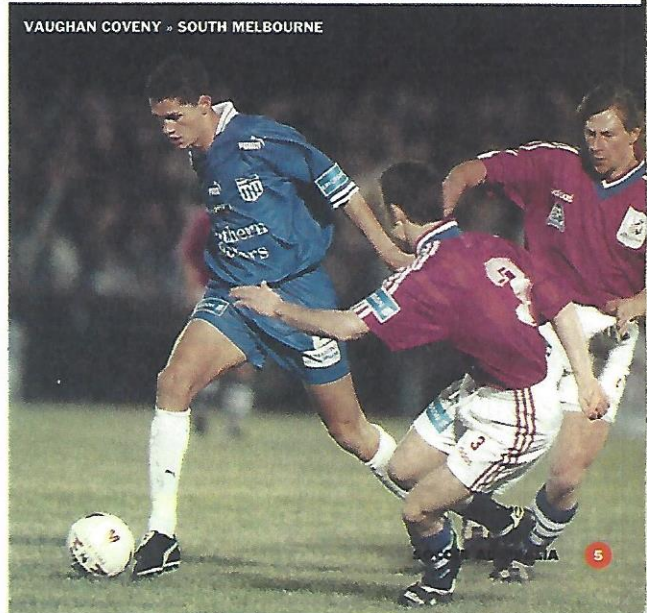
A midweek win over Brisbane and a terrific follow-up effort against South Melbourne (2-0) suggests United are on the verge of a winning roll. The highlight for them has been the form of Tony Popovic. He is in a class of his own. Rating: **7.**

MORWELL FALCONS (fifth): Under the astute coaching of the likeable Harry Bingham, Morwell has been one of the impressive early season performers.

Indeed, they are undoubtedly the new excitement machine of the Ericsson Cup with 12 goals in six games and are playing the sort of football guaranteed to get the turnstiles clicking. The Falcons slipped from top of the league to fifth after the sixth round away loss to Brisbane Strikers but that should only be a minor setback. It's good to see



FRANK JURIC & MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



VAUGHAN COVENY & SOUTH MELBOURNE

Socceroo Warren Spink among the goals. Rating: **8**.

ADELAIDE CITY (sixth): Life without favourite son Zoran Matic could not have got off to a better start after wins in their opening two matches.

But former Socceroo John Perin, who took over the coaching reins from Matic at the start of the season, has had his problems since, notably when they lost three games in a row. Missing the likes of Sergio Melta (retired), Tony Vidmar (overseas) and injured duo Joe Mullen and Craig Foster hasn't helped.

The Zebras got back on track with a late win over arch rivals West Adelaide and maybe things are ready to turn around. Perin says his team will struggle but still believes they'll make the finals. Rating: **6**.

SOUTH MELBOURNE (seventh): The club is rebuilding following a massive clean-out of some good players at the start of the season.

The side was lucky to survive in the 2-2 draw against Canberra Cosmos in round four and a shock loss to Wollongong City was followed by another defeat at the hands of Sydney United. Lacking the depth of past seasons, coach Frank Arok may rue the decision to let the likes of Jason Polak, Gary Hasler, Paul Wade, and especially Francis Awaritefe, go. Rating: **5**.

BRISBANE STRIKERS (eighth): The Strikers lost their first two matches before handing Newcastle a 5-0 drubbing, then losing to Melbourne Knights.

Frank Farina has already had a big influence on and off the park. Injuries to a couple of key players and the unwarranted sending-off of Farina against the Knights haven't helped coach Bruce Stowell. Signing Jason Polak was a huge coup. While the Strikers have a quality team and will be the big improvers as the season progresses though they will need to find a little more consistency. Rating: **6**.

WEST ADELAIDE (ninth): A disappointing start to the season for the Sharks.

The loss of Socceroo fullback Stan Lazaridis is really starting to bite. One shining light has been the form of sweeper Robbie Hooker, who has been recalled to the Socceroo squad on the



▲ **IVAN KELIC** » South Melbourne
FAUSTO DE AMICIS » Melbourne Knights

strength of a couple of outstanding displays. The loss to Adelaide City was a bitter blow for the Sharks, especially as they led with just 10 minutes to go. Coach Raul Blanco will, no doubt, get them back on track. Rating: **5**.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS (10th): Not the easybeats everyone had predicted, though the Breakers were brought down to earth in that 5-0 loss to Brisbane Strikers in round four.

But they showed their spirit by bouncing back the following week and grabbing their first win – a 2-1 victory over Sydney United, and the club almost had a terrific result against the Knights, only to be robbed of a point in the dying minutes of the game.

New coach, former Socceroo John Kosmina, is handling the job well. He is not afraid to give kids a go and is using a mix of youth and experience. Rating: **5**.

WOLLONGONG CITY (11th): The Wolves suffered three losses in succession before cracking it for their first win of the season against Souths in round five.

The side was very disappointing in the 3-0 loss to UTS Olympic in round six – a game which showed they rely heavily on the talents of Matt Horsley, who was missing through injury. The return of Mike O'Shea, who has been playing in China, in the next three weeks will be a big boost. Still, I can't see them clawing their way from near the bottom of the table. Rating: **4**.

CANBERRA COSMOS (last): Former Everton great Mick Lyons has performed minor miracles with this team even though they are where everyone expected them to be... at the bottom of the table.

Cosmos were tipped to be big losers in their first season back in the big time, but that hasn't happened yet even though they are winless and have managed just three draws. They've really stretched a couple of teams and a good win is not far off. Rating: **4**.



◀ **WARREN SPINK** » Morwell Falcons

myview

Marconi Striker Andrew Harper on the Ericsson Cup



If you were to cast an inquisitive net to trawl the Ericsson Cup, and sample players morale, the result would probably be heartening.

The mood of the players in light of the remodelled and renamed 'Ericsson Cup' is definitely one of optimism. It seems soccer has finally escaped from the unimaginative and deathly spiral in which it has found itself in recent times.

In the past we have had to put up with the doom and gloom merchants who had pride of place on the Australian sport soapbox and who targeted, among other things, Australian soccer.

These powerful and cynical sources were relentless in their desire to keep our game in drab and murky obscurity, though it must be conceded that there was, on occasion, plenty of material to feed the onslaught.

To be playing in a competition which now boasts a communicable vision and receives favorable commercial treatment is an exciting scenario for players who previously may have had their ambitions unduly bounded.

As the Ericsson Cup approaches the middle section of the season, it would be appropriate to reflect on the comparative state of the Ericsson Cup with previous seasons.

The best indication of the improvement is the increase in crowd figures, this despite the less than ideal weather conditions (in Sydney at least) and the inclusion of mid-week games which are notorious for drawing smaller crowds.

This increase is due, in no small measure, to the various initiatives undertaken by Soccer Australia.

The inclusion of the new teams, Canberra and Newcastle, is worth applauding, although in making way for these teams one can't help feeling nostalgic and sorrowful impulses for the relegated clubs, Parramatta, Melbourne Zebras and Heidelberg.

Coupled with stream lining of the competition was the extension of the regular season to 33 rounds, placing more quality on view more often.

There also seem to be new opportunities for players who stay at home. Soccer Australia traineeships and, hopefully, the imminent onset of professionalism give players a legitimate and promising career path.

There is also the issue of playing staff and the overseas player drain, something which is much lamented on the Australian soccer scene. But there is a positive perspective to this scenario.

While it would be sensational for the domestic competition to have the superstars on display at home, economic factors preclude this from happening.

It is commonly felt, however, that people focus too heavily on the drain of players and pay no attention to the players who are filling the gaps here at home.

Australians returning from stints overseas such as Frank Farina, Milan Blagojevic and Dominic Longo are all contributing to the vibrancy and effectiveness of the new league.

Instead of indulging in self pity because of the loss of players, let's rejoice in the class and quality on display every week in the form of Milan Ivanovic and Francis Awaritefe (to name a couple) who have made impressive contributions to our game.

Players will continue to leave for overseas, and their departure will be chronicled as nails in the coffin of Australian soccer, however, we should be heralding those that replace our 'foreign legion'.

Think of the pleasure that has been provided by excitement machines like Danny Tiatto, Goran Lozanovski and new young gun Clayton Zane - all players who have grasped playing opportunities which might not have come about had all our 'stars' stayed at home.

We should also be thankful for those responsible for one of the most significant aspects of the new competition - the sponsors.

In these days of commodified and commercialised sport, an elite competition without corporate endorsement is considered second rate.

Securing a naming rights sponsors for the national league, via Ericsson, has provided an unquantifiable morale boost to all those involved in soccer.

The deal with Ericsson confirmed what all erudite supporters believed - that Australian soccer is a product which cries out for involvement from the corporate sector and is worthy of attention.

Corporate sponsorship, coverage and promotion from Optus Vision and the fact that commercial networks are playing Ericsson Cup footage during news bulletins have all had a significant, and positive, impact on the Australian soccer fraternity.

The promised land has not yet been reached, but there are signs, and a prevailing belief, that there is a way forward for Australian soccer.

In Soccer Australia we may have an administration which is capable of leading the way with real hope and vision.

We are now faced with the challenge of continuing the work.

Compiled by Andrew Howe

Round 1 One

Friday, 6 October 1995
Newcastle Breakers 2
(Bernett 16, Brown 75)
UTS Olympic 2 (Tsekenis 32,
Taliadoros 53pen)
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Attendance: 6837
Referee: Simon Micallef

Saturday, 7 October 1995
Brisbane Strikers 1 (Farina 11)
Marconi Fairfield 3
(Harper 6pen, 48pen, Bingley 65)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Attendance: 6118
Referee: Derek Crawford

Saturday, 7 October 1995
Morwell Falcons 4
(Spink 11, 42, 57pen, Reda 33)
Wollongong City 1 (Perenich 64)
Venue: Morwell Falcons Park
Attendance: 2840
Referee: Cain Naumcevski

Sunday, 8 October 1995
Sydney United 0
West Adelaide 0
Venue: Edensor Park
Attendance: 4160
Referee: Mark Shield

Sunday, 8 October 1995
Adelaide City 2 (Mori 69, 88)
Canberra Cosmos 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 4680
Referee: John Papanicolas

Sunday, 8 October 1995
Melbourne Knights 1 (Own goal 62)
South Melbourne 0
Venue: Somers St Stadium
Attendance: 6290
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

Round 2 Two

Friday, 13 October 1995
Morwell Falcons 0
South Melbourne 1 (Kellic 8)
Venue: Morwell Falcons Park
Attendance: 4183
Referee: Gerry Connolly

Saturday, 14 October 1995
Canberra Cosmos 0
Sydney United 0
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Attendance: 5490
Referee: Con Diomis

Saturday, 14 October 1995
Marconi Fairfield 2
(Maloney 61, Awartife 5)
Newcastle Breakers 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Attendance: 4597
Referee: Cain Naumcevski

Sunday, 15 October 1995
Wollongong City 0
Adelaide City 2 (Mori 51, Foster 53)
Venue: Brandon Park
Attendance: 3005
Referee: Simon Micallef

Sunday, 15 October 1995
UTS Olympic 1 (Trajanovski 40)
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Leichhardt Oval
Attendance: 6300
Referee: Brett Hugo

Sunday, 15 October 1995
West Adelaide 1 (Hooker 48pen)
Brisbane Strikers 0 (Farina 51, 53)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 3400
Referee: Wayne Dade

Round 3 Three

Wednesday, 18 October 1995
Adelaide City 1 (Mori 66)
South Melbourne 2
(Trimball 37, Mangos 89)

Ericsson Cup Ladder as at 19 November 1995

	P	W	D	PW	L	F	A	Pts
UTS Olympic	8	5	2	1	18	12	6	17
Marconi-Fairfield	8	5	1	2	12	8	4	16
Melbourne Knights	8	5	1	2	9	5	4	16
Sydney United	8	4	3	1	9	4	5	15
Morwell Falcons	8	4	1	3	13	9	4	13
West Adelaide	8	2	4	2	8	8	0	10
Brisbane Strikers	7	3	0	4	10	8	2	9
Adelaide City	7	3	0	4	8	8	0	9
Newcastle Breakers	8	2	2	4	8	15	-7	8
South Melbourne	8	2	1	5	8	14	-6	7
Wollongong City	8	2	1	5	8	14	-6	7
Canberra Cosmos	8	0	4	4	8	14	-6	4

W-WIN 4 points • D-DRAW 1 point • PW-PENALTY WIN 1 bonus point • L-LOSS 0

Leading Goal Scorers

Damien Mori	Adelaide City	5	Kris Trajanovski	UTS Olympic	4
Kimion Taliadoros	UTS Olympic	5	Jason Bennett	Newcastle Breakers	3
Francis Awartife	Marconi	4	Sean Cranney	Brisbane Strikers	3
Frank Farina	Brisbane Strikers	4	Tony Perinich	Wollongong City	3
Andrew Harper	Marconi	4	Jim Tsekenis	West Adelaide	3
Warren Spink	Morwell Falcons	4	David Zdrilic	Sydney United	3

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 4405
Referee: Eddie Lennie

Wednesday, 18 October 1995
Newcastle Breakers 1 (Bennett 9)
West Adelaide 1 (Tsekenis 2)
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Attendance: 4354
Referee: Con Diomis

Wednesday, 18 October 1995
Melbourne Knights 2
(Marth 63, Spiteri 90)
Marconi Fairfield 0
Venue: Somers St Stadium
Attendance: 2030
Referee: Gerry Connolly

Wednesday, 18 October 1995
Marwell Falcons 4
(Bothwell 1, Waddell 14,
Stergiopoulos 48, Tapal 53)
UTS Olympic 2 (Ciantar 65,
Augineros 84)
Venue: Morwell Falcons Park
Attendance: 3020
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

Wednesday, 1 November 1995
Canberra Cosmos 2
(Musitano 4, Armstrong 15)
Wollongong City 2
(Naumovski 34, Forshaw 82)
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Attendance: 2210
Referee: Gerry Connolly

Wednesday, 1 November 1995
Sydney United 1 (Zdrilic 77)
Brisbane Strikers 0
Venue: Edensor Park
Attendance: 2150
Referee: Brett Hugo

Round 4 Four

Friday, 20 October 1995
Wollongong City 0
Sydney United 1 (Z Babic 55)
Venue: Brandon Park
Attendance: 2506
Referee: Brett Hugo

Saturday, 21 October 1995
Marconi Fairfield 2
(Awartife 70, Harper 85)
Morwell Falcons 2
(Spink 3, Reda 79)
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Attendance: 3180

Referee: Con Diomis

Saturday, 21 October 1995
Brisbane Strikers 5 (S Cranney 3, 51,
Brown 25, Farina 54, Battistin 90)
Newcastle Breakers 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Attendance: 3697
Referee: Mark Shield

Sunday, 22 October 1995
South Melbourne 2 (Damianos 65,
Panopoulos 75)
Canberra Cosmos 2
(Dee 38, Dunn 55)
Venue: Lakeside Stadium
Attendance: 2725
Referee: Cain Naumcevski

Sunday, 22 October 1995
UTS Olympic 1 (Trajanovski 59)
Adelaide City 0
Venue: Leichhardt Oval
Attendance: 2480
Referee: Gerry Connolly

Sunday, 22 October 1995
West Adelaide 1 (Tsekenis 40)
Melbourne Knights 1
(Kutlesovski 55)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 2825
Referee: Simon Micallef

Round 5 Five

Friday, 27 October 1995
Wollongong City 2
(Perenich 32, Luff 49)
South Melbourne 0
Venue: Brandon Park
Attendance: 2980
Referee: Con Diomis

Saturday, 28 October 1995
Canberra Cosmos 2
(Kelly 52, Perinovic 57)
UTS Olympic 3 (Meredith 30,
Augineros 76, Taliadoros 85)
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Attendance: 3920
Referee: Simon Micallef

Saturday, 28 October 1995
Morwell Falcons 2
(Bothwell 23, Canosa 73)
West Adelaide 1 (Tsekenis 68)
Venue: Morwell Falcons Park
Attendance: 3782
Referee: Cain Naumcevski

Sunday, 29 October 1995
Melbourne Knights 2 (Lapsansky
50, Vojtek 83)
Brisbane Strikers 0
Venue: Somers St Stadium
Attendance: 2680
Referee: Wayne Dade

Sunday, 29 October 1995
Sydney United 1 (Rudan 39)
Newcastle Breakers 2
(Bennett 34, Lowe 61pen)
Venue: Edensor Park
Attendance: 4716
Referee: Derek Crawford

Sunday, 29 October 1995
Adelaide City 0
Marconi Fairfield 2
(Maloney 52, Awartife 70)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 4866
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

Round 6 Six

Friday, 3 November 1995
Newcastle Breakers 1 (Zane 36)
Melbourne Knights 2
(Spiteri 59, Markovski 89)
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Attendance: 4994
Referee: Brett Hugo

Saturday, 4 November 1995
Brisbane Strikers 1 (Farina 83)
Morwell Falcons 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Attendance: 4682
Referee: Derek Crawford

Saturday, 4 November 1995
Marconi Fairfield 1 (Awartife 6)
Canberra Cosmos 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Attendance: 3617
Referee: John Papanicolas

Sunday, 5 November 1995
South Melbourne 0
Sydney United 2
(Markovac 27, Zdrilic 51)
Venue: Lakeside Stadium
Attendance: 3295
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

Sunday, 5 November 1995
UTS Olympic 3
(Ardone 18, Taliadoros 38,
Taliadoros 72)

Wollongong City 0
Venue: Leichhardt Oval
Attendance: 4511
Referee: Mark Shield

Sunday, 5 November 1995
West Adelaide 1 (Slager 55)
Adelaide City 2
(Gibson 80, Mori 85)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 8284
Referee: Eddie Lennie

Round 7 Seven

Friday, 10 November 1995
Wollongong City 2
(Perenich 18, Naumovski 50)
Marconi Fairfield 0
Venue: Brandon Park
Attendance: 3657
Referee: Brett Hugo

Saturday, 11 November 1995
Canberra Cosmos 1 (Wade 90)
West Adelaide 1 (Cardozo 89)
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Attendance: 3210
Referee: Cain Naumcevski

Saturday, 11 November 1995
Morwell Falcons 1 (Despotovski 34)
Newcastle Breakers 0
Venue: Morwell Falcons Park
Attendance: 3040
Referee: Gerry Connolly

Sunday, 12 November 1995
South Melbourne 2
(Damianos 65, Sherifovski 84)
UTS Olympic 4 (Tome 1, Taliadoros
53, Trajanovski 55, Bacak 64)
Venue: Lakeside Stadium
Attendance: 5213
Referee: Simon Micallef

Sunday, 12 November 1995
Sydney United 2
(Zdrilic 50, Z Babic 62)
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Edensor Park
Attendance: 4607
Referee: Con Diomis

Round 8 Eight

Friday, 17 November 1995
Newcastle Breakers 2
(Zane 21, Lowe 68pen)
Adelaide City 1 (Hassell 19)
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Attendance: 4189
Referee: Simon Micallef

Saturday, 18 November 1995
Marconi Fairfield 2
(Smith 15, Harper 68)
South Melbourne 1 (Covery 72)
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Attendance: 3209
Referee: Con Diomis

Saturday, 18 November 1995
Brisbane Strikers 3 (Farina 26,
S Cranney 30, Brayshaw 89)
Canberra Cosmos 1 (Armstrong 85)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Attendance: 4809
Referee: Mark Shield

Sunday, 19 November 1995
UTS Olympic 2
(Trajanovski 88, Tsekenis 89)
Sydney United 2
(Milicic 9, 27)
Venue: Leichhardt Oval
Attendance: 7133
Referee: Brett Hugo

Sunday, 19 November 1995
West Adelaide 2
(Aloisi 13, Slager 70)
Wollongong City 1
(Grujovski 80)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 3039
Referee: Eddie Lennie

Sunday, 19 November 1995
Melbourne Knights 1
(Buljubasic 62)
Morwell Falcons 0
Venue: Somers St Stadium
Attendance: 4300 •

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South Melbourne's new lease of life

BOB JANE STADIUM

A spectacular fireworks display was a fitting finale to a momentous day for South Melbourne as the club celebrated the opening of its new ground.

The redeveloped Lakeside Oval, now known as the Bob Jane Stadium, is set to become a new Victorian sporting landmark.

A capacity crowd of 14,000 saw the opening festivities which included a 'legends' match. The ground was formally opened by Premier Jeff Kennett.

Fittingly, South Melbourne's opening goal at the stadium was scored by 17-year-old striking sensation, Daniel Allsopp.

The Blues eventually went down 3-2 in a pulsating game against the West Adelaide Sharks.

The new ground was developed at a cost of \$6 million, and is only the first stage of a long term plan which will enable South Melbourne to house 20,000 spectators in comfort.

As one of Australia's biggest clubs, South Melbourne now has a stadium which does justice to both its reputation and its ardent supporters. A new sporting tradition has begun in Melbourne - one which is likely to involve some magnificent football in years to come.

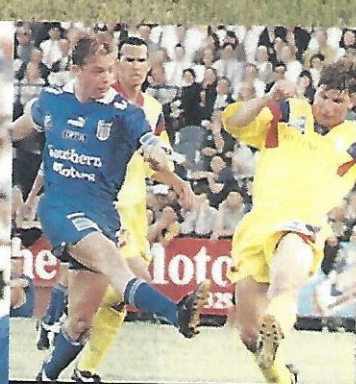


ABOVE: Pablo Cardozo - West Adelaide.
BELOW: Skipper Paul Trimboli and Con Kokkinoplitis.



ABOVE: South Melbourne Jubilation after Daniel Allsopp's goal.

BELOW: Premier of Victoria, Jeff Kennett, and Bob Jane in the background, light up the stadium.



ABOVE: Golden Boot - Daniel Allsopp.
BELOW: Vaughan Coveny - South Melbourne.



Southern *exposure*

What would it take for the commercial networks to give soccer extensive coverage? David Porter went in search of an answer.



▲ **MICHAEL AUDCENT**
Manager of Ten Network Sport.



It has been an exciting year for Australian soccer. Since the dark days of the Stewart Inquiry last year, 1995 has seen the launching of a five-year plan to reinvigorate the game by Soccer Australia Chairman, David Hill; the Ericsson company's generous sponsorship of the Ericsson Cup; a new deal with Optus Vision, giving Australian soccer pay television exposure; continued support from SBS; and last, but by no means least, the emergence of an exciting new crop of young players who have defied those who said the exodus of the nation's best to Europe spelt doom for the national domestic competition.

Could it possibly get better in 1996? Hang on to your bootlaces because there is every chance it will!

Moves are afoot that could lift Australian soccer into the big league of television sport next year. Talks are still progressing and the full details of what's planned have not been revealed, but those involved hope to make a major announcement within weeks. More on that in a moment.

Few would argue with David Hill's assessment a few months ago that vastly

increased support from the Australian public and media is vital if soccer is to grow and become a major sport in this country.

When elected Chairman in March, Mr Hill said: "My aim is to make soccer not only part of mainstream Australian sport but also part of mainstream Australian society."

A key ingredient of the Hill blueprint was the necessity of attracting commercial television interest in promoting and covering the game.

A laudable aim, but how? Previous soccer administrations have had several tries at reinventing the game with only limited success, while the fight for corporate dollars and television exposure between rugby league, Australian rules, basketball, rugby union and soccer has become tougher than ever.

With this in mind, 'Soccer Australia' magazine approached the three main commercial television networks and put two questions to them regarding Oz soccer. What does Australian soccer need to do to attract commercial television interest? And what, in their view, is holding the game back?

Their comments were varied and informative, with one potentially exciting surprise.

For reasons known only to themselves, the response from Channel 7 was brief and to the point. "We don't want to comment on that at all," said a station publicist after checking with sports program manager Gary Fenton.

The Ten Network, however, was far more forthcoming. Michael Audcent, Manager of Ten Network Sport, said the game lacked an image and had no national appeal.

"I think most people would be hard pressed to name a team, let alone identify with them or know anything about them," he said.

It should be stated from the outset that this comment comes from a seasoned soccer fan. Mr Audcent is a Scot and a lifetime Hibernian supporter.

"The majority of Australian children, and that includes my kids, start with the round ball, with soccer - so why do we lose it from there?"

(After 30 years, I still look up the results on Monday morning. Some things never change!)

Casting his mind back to the early days of Australian soccer, Mr Audcent believes crowd trouble, highlighted by the media, gave the game a bad image.

"I'm sure that put people off. It seemed at times as if soccer was determined to shoot itself in the foot. That hasn't been a problem lately, though

some people still raise the game's ethnic base as an issue."

But part of the blame for soccer's low profile lay at the feet of its administrators, he said, for not pushing the game hard enough.

"As a network, we haven't talked about covering soccer in recent years and part of the reason is that we've had no impassioned pleas from the game's administrators and promoters to get it on television.

"For a network to look at the game now with a view to picking it up, then its commitments with SBS are a factor to consider. Apart from its coverage of the national league, SBS has the rights to televise the next World Cup and possibly the next two, if I'm right. When you've got the game's premier world event already tied to another network, then that's clearly a disincentive to getting involved.

"In terms of marketing, there seems to be a perception that there's no clear season and that games are played at all times of the day and week. I personally believe the summer competition is not a great idea. There are too many other strong sports competing with it and most if not all football codes are seen as winter sports."

What does soccer need to do, then, to get Ten interested?

"I would like to see much more publicity and promotion for the national team. There's definite appeal and interest when someone pulls an Australian jersey over their head. If you recall the Socceroos' home game against Argentina in the World Cup, the atmosphere and interest was fantastic.

"Okay, the best players are now overseas, so there's a problem there and I don't know what you do about that. But we need more home games for the national team and much more promotion. I know David Hill is very ambitious about that and I believe he's on the right track."

Not surprisingly, the successful marketing of basketball in Australia is often raised as an example for soccer to follow. In the course of five years, basketball went from a minor game with a small following to a nationally televised league attracting thousands to each game.

The man behind that success, David Woolley, is of course now the Chief Executive of the Australian Soccer Federation. His move from basketball to soccer invites comparisons, though in an interview with Laurie Schwab for the Sunday Age, Mr Woolley rejected the idea that what worked for basketball will automatically work for soccer.

However, he was certain that soccer had a massive potential audience and was starting from a much stronger position than basketball - a view which, significantly, he shares with Channel 9's Network Director of Sport, Gary Burns.

"I think basketball had terrific marketing," said Mr Burns. "But the game has a few problems in that most of the players are seven foot Americans and we don't

grow them here.

"Compare that with soccer, which does have home grown talent, then you have to say that soccer has the most potential of all sports around at the moment.

"The majority of Australian children, and that includes my kids, start with the round ball, with soccer - so why do we lose it from there?"

Why indeed. So what does soccer need to do to get coverage from Channel 9?

"David Hill is doing it already. He's taking all the right steps by forming the new national league and making the game more homogenous."

Does that sound like a hint of interest from the Nine Network?

"Yes, definitely. I can tell you that we have begun discussions on covering soccer next year. In a sense you've phoned me too early because talks are still in progress and I can't say much at this stage.

"But we would like to do a couple of games next year, perhaps some soccer programs as well, but also incorporating soccer into our existing sports shows such as Wide World of Sport, where we might present a package or segment each week consisting of results, league tables and discussion about the games.

"I hope to be able to make an announcement in a few weeks that will see us having more involvement in soccer next year. Obviously, Rugby League has a big question mark over it next year, so maybe we can help push soccer along a little, without wishing to sound patronising at all."

If the Channel 9 deal pans out, it could become one of the most exciting developments in Australian soccer for years. But Mr Burns is adamant that soccer needs to continue to evolve if it is to progress.

"I think it's fair to say that soccer has been somewhat inaccessible in the past. It has been locked away for too long in the European-Australian community. I agree with David Hill that, while not devaluing the ethnic support base of clubs, which has been their life blood, you have to de-ethnise the game and make it more homogenous.

"In other areas, I think there is a problem with identifying the soccer season. Whether games are played Friday, Saturday, Sunday or any other day is not a problem, but I think there is confusion about the season, whether it's summer or winter or somewhere in between.

"As for lifting the game's profile, promoting the national teams, including the youth teams, is the way to go. I also believe you have to keep the good players at home instead of overseas. It's alright for players to seek overseas experience for, say, three years, but not 10 years, where they return at the end of their careers, play a season or two at home and then retire. That is a problem and I don't know how you overcome it, but it has to be solved."

So, there you have it. With the national league allied to SBS for this season and the next, Channel 9's ability to telecast matches will be limited to other competitions. But the network's interest in soccer is commendable and exciting news for the local game. Stay tuned for further developments. ●



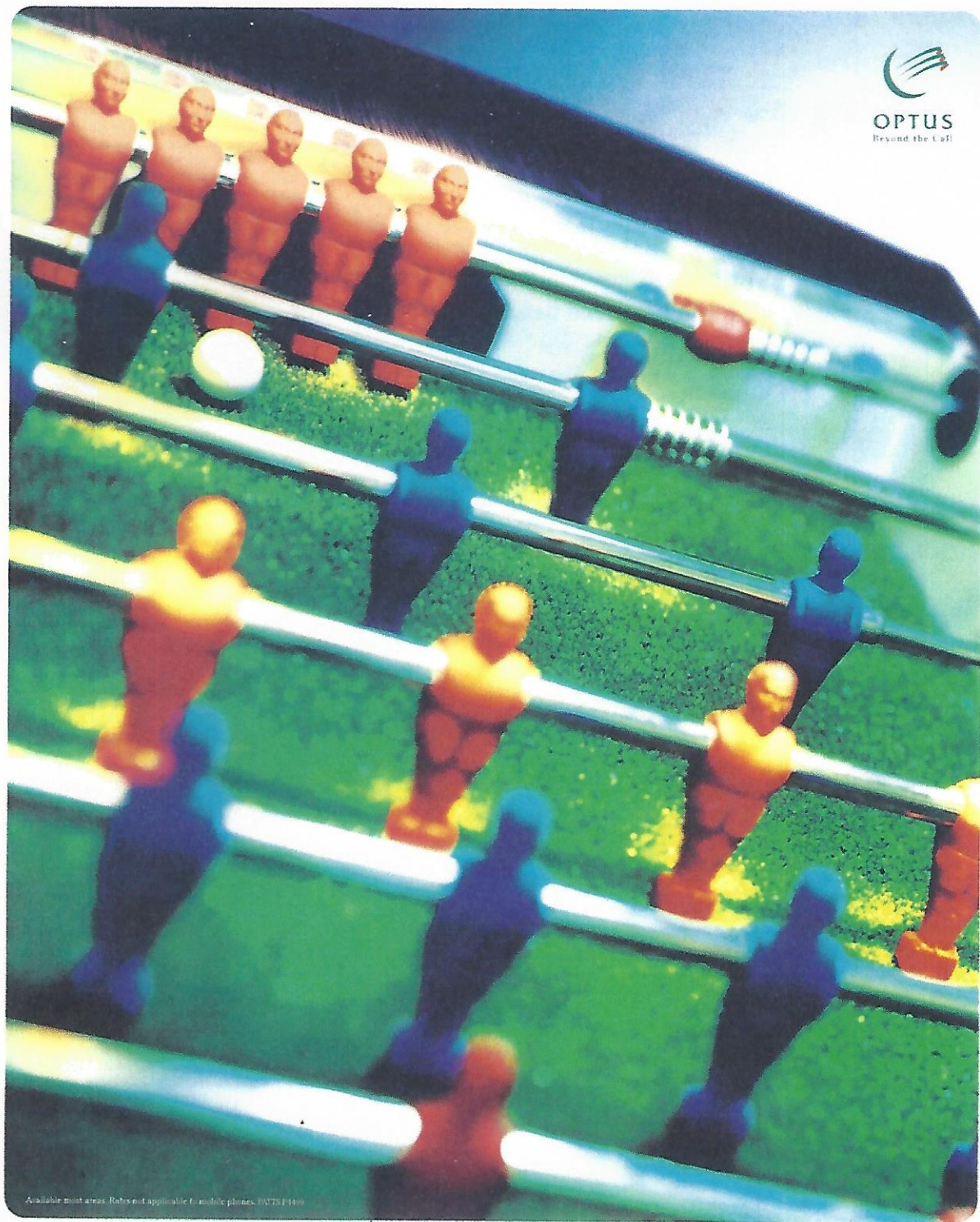
▲ GARY BURNS
Director of Sport for the Nine Network.

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Ericsson connects with soccer

Ericsson has signed a five year sponsorship deal to sponsor Australian soccer's premier competition. Laurie Schwab reports.

Ericsson Australia's five-year sponsorship of soccer has not only delivered a much-needed funding boost but also added considerably to the sport's marketing potential.

Ericsson's national marketing manager, Mr Chris Riviere, said that his company's involvement might well prompt other major corporations to align themselves with Australian soccer.

"We looked at the inherent strength of the game in Australia, its penetration and its wide media coverage and we took the decision that it would provide Ericsson with enormous benefits," Mr Riviere said.

Ericsson's commitment to the game in Australia is an extension of its involvement in other aspects of the sport, especially the World Youth Championships.

"It is a sport that is closely aligned with international telecommunication, including satellite TV linkage – and of course, Ericsson is part of that industry."

When the company first launched its range of mobile phones in Australia, it targeted professionals and tradespeople. Three years

later, it seeks wider penetration of the total market – and it sees soccer as a means of reaching the general population.

Mr Riviere pointed out that Australia boasts the deepest penetration into the mobile phone market outside the Scandinavian countries. Ericsson, incidentally, is a Swedish multinational company, the Australian arm of which has been established for 32 years.

The financial extent of the company's naming-rights sponsorship of the Ericsson Cup has not been officially divulged but whatever it is, Mr Riviere stressed that it was highly cost-effective in terms of public exposure.

"Ericsson has been setting the trend in research and development and we provide Telstra and Vodafone with core technology, yet we have not taken time to shout it from the hilltop. Soccer has given us that opportunity."

Coca-Cola retains the sponsorship rights to Australia's national teams but Mr Riviere said that Ericsson might well take the opportunity to sponsor the Swedish national team during a series against the Socceroos here early next year. •

► **DARYL CHAMBERS**
General Manager Ericsson
Mobile Phones Division.



◀ **BLUE CHIP:**
Telecommunication
giant Ericsson Australia
has long been setting
the trend in research
and development.

City of Dreams

Adelaide City, for so long the envy of most clubs in Australia, has a new coach and a new future. Patrick Mangan went to the city of churches to take a look at what makes the Zebras tick.



John Perin may have only been in charge of Adelaide City for a matter of months, but when he talks of his beloved Zebras it sounds as if he's been here half his life. Which, of course, he has.

"Adelaide is the soccer capital of Australia, there's no question about that," he says proudly. And who can argue, given the Zebras' success over recent years?

"Years ago Adelaide used to be the outcast, but now the eastern states are looking over to see what we're doing, especially here at Adelaide City."

There are few people in the local game who can match Perin's one club loyalty. Starting in the City youth teams at the age of 11, he made it into the seniors at 17, was in the Socceroos by the time he was 19, and spent virtually his entire playing career with the club.

After his retirement in 1982 he briefly coached the team, and later became assistant coach to Zoran Matic for the greater part of the late 80s and early 90s.

Matic, a legend in Australian soccer, coached Adelaide City to three championship victories and is an almost impossible act to follow. At any other club a new coach might already be feeling the heat, but Perin knows he's in charge at a club that values stability.

"There hasn't been a coach that's never been sacked," he admits, "but the record at Adelaide City is that it very rarely sacks coaches. Luckily this club is stable enough that they give you the time to work, and at the end of the day if you can't do the job, then at least they've given you a proper chance."

Not that the affable former Socceroo is entertaining the idea of failure. "With the plan that we've got in mind I hope to be around for three or four or five years at least and we'll see what happens from there."

In any case, Perin has more important matters to consider than the mortality rate of the modern day coach. These are exciting times for Australian soccer

and no club has better long term prospects than Adelaide City.

The Zebras have consistently produced international class players (Sheffield United's Carl Veart and Aurelio Vidmar at Feyenoord, for example), they submitted a bold application to join the Malaysian League last year, and the advent of the Ericsson Cup could lead to the club eventually becoming fully professional.

Perin believes that along with South Melbourne and Marconi, Adelaide City will be one of the first teams to go full-time. Club President Fred Lenzi joins in to give his weight to the argument.

"With an average paying crowd of 7,500 you could support yourself," Lenzi maintains, "you could set the team up and develop it the way you wanted."

The club's General Manager Irene Toner agrees. "Carl Veart came to see me when he was in Adelaide a few months ago, and he said if he could be a professional soccer player here, he never would have left Australia."

"He'd love to come back if he could earn 50 or 60,000 dollars a year. As it is, though, we pay our top players 30 or 40,000 dollars a year, so that's the difference."

Adelaide City is clearly looking at the big picture. The club's attempt to join the Malaysian League last year, made public on the eve of the Grand Final against the Melbourne Knights, is the most obvious example of the Zebras' ambitions.

"We tried to get involved," Lenzi explains, "we spoke to the Malaysian Football Federation about it and unfortunately we weren't accepted."

"Without abandoning the Australian league we would have liked to support a team over there, because there were plenty of funds available to us to play in Malaysia."

"The corporate dollars are available in much larger volumes to an Australian soccer club playing over there than they are here in the local league."

"You have to look at an Asian league as a possible next step," says Perin, joining the debate. "If you're in that league you can attract the major sponsors and then turn fully professional. The majority of sponsors are doing business in south-east Asia anyway, so they see it as a marketing tool for them."

The powers-that-be at Adelaide City clearly see as having enormous potential in this country. So has the game got the ingredients for a Super League-style takeover?

Perin thinks so. "I think David Hill can see that, and he's on the right track as far as getting the corporate dollars involved. You're dead right, it just needs a Kerry Packer or a Rupert Murdoch to grab hold of it and do what Packer did to the cricket. I mean, cricket was at its lowest ebb ever before he came along and razzamatazzed it up."

"They'd probably have more long term success with soccer than they would with rugby," says Lenzi, who is thinking Super League thoughts as well. "Rugby's come a long way on the map recently, but deep down soccer's probably a better prospect."

"But you need to have the right people at Soccer Australia to be able to get the Packers and Murdochs interested."

"A lot of people are against David Hill and the methods he uses to get what he wants, but he's probably one of the few people who is capable of getting someone like Packer involved in soccer."

In order for soccer in Australia to attract the media magnates, however, Perin and all at Adelaide City realise that the game needs to broaden its support base among Aussie sports fans. The complicated 'ethnic' issue naturally comes under the microscope.

One of the first things you notice in Adelaide City's social club and offices is a lack of emphasis on its European background. The Italian flag is incorporated into City's emblem, but you're more likely to see 'Clipsal Zebras' (Clipsal is one of the club sponsors) or 'Adelaide

▼ **JOHN PERIN** - leading the way for Adelaide City.



"Adelaide is the soccer capital of Australia, there's no question about that." - John Perin



City Soccer Club' on the walls than references to the club's former name Juventus.

It's all part of the Zebras' long term plan to make Adelaide City appeal to the greater South Australian sporting public as well as its own traditional Italian support base.

"We pride ourselves on the fact that we're a multi-cultural club," Perin says. "There are two Englishmen on our board, a Serbian, and all our board meetings are conducted in English. We have 15 or 16 junior teams at Adelaide City, and the kids are Vietnamese, English, Scottish and Aboriginal as well as Italian. The more we can attract other cultures, the better our club will be."

"The South Australian public, even if they're not fanatical soccer supporters have adopted us as their team," Lenzi says. "We're representing them as South Australians."

"Our backing is still predominantly Italian," Perin adds, "but you don't hear the chants of 'Juve' anymore, it's all 'City, City'."

"We're trying to broaden our attraction to other people by making the club

as multi-cultural as possible. It may not have attracted a great many more people overnight, but we believe Adelaide City appeals to more of the outside public now than it ever has."

Packers, Asian leagues and the future of Australian soccer are serious issues, but the Zebras also have a game to win on the weekend.

At training at the club's Greenhill Road complex that evening, the mood is one of determination, and yet within the obvious professional framework there's almost a family-like atmosphere. And it's more like the Waltons than the Simpsons.

Perin jokes with his assistant coach and fellow ex-Socceroo John Nyskohus, and there's none of the tension that you might expect from an Ericsson Cup team dressing room. The players, board members and even representatives from club sponsors Lotto mingle with each other and it's easy to see why City has such a reputation as a harmonious club.

Outside the rooms, the captain of the Zebras and very much a current Socceroo, Alex Tobin, discusses life under the new coach. "John's a different character from Zoran - Zoran's a bit more sort of guy whereas John's a bit more relaxed. He's obviously got some different ideas to Zoran, but I think he's been smart in not bringing everything in straight away."

"There are players here who've played under Zoran all their careers at national league level, so John's been introducing his ideas bit by bit and our playing style hasn't changed a lot so far."

"The fans expect a lot because of our recent record, but within the club we know it's going to be a challenging year. We've had a change of coach and, of course, we've lost players of the calibre of Sergio Melta and Tony Vidmar. No-one's expecting miracles overnight."

The sun's descending and Perin has the players out on the track, putting them through their paces with the inevitable witches hats close at hand.

Club President Lenzi oversees the action. In spite of Adelaide City's consistent success over the last few years, he's not putting any unnecessary pressure on his new coach. "If we win the championship this year," he says simply, "John will have exceeded all expectations." ●

◀ **DAMIAN MORI** celebrates another goal for the Zebras.

On soccer's *front line*

FR LI

There's plenty to keep Frontline's Santo Cilauro busy these days, but somehow his life wouldn't be the same without football, as Patrick Mangan discovered.

Santo Cilauro knows there are more important things in life than soccer.

The Frontline star clearly has a fulfilling sports-free life as a writer, producer and actor on the hit ABC-TV series, but anyone who claims a frayed reel to reel film of the 1970 World Cup semi-final as his most prized possession must surely be treated with some caution.

As it turns out soccer has been in Santo's blood a long time now. "Growing up in a migrant family it was all wrestling, Elvis movies and soccer. You'd have to be a complete freak not to be part of the soccer thing."

"On top of that, my father (Vito) was very much involved in the administration at the Brunswick Juventus soccer club and later with the Victorian Soccer Federation."

"You'd go to the Italian cinema on Friday nights and they'd show soccer matches and then a movie after that. I remember seeing the 1970 semi-final there and it had been played over three months before, but the Italians rolled up with their scarves and they were cheering every goal. That's the sort of environment it was."

Santo came and went through the Juventus junior ranks, playing alongside Socceroo Oscar Crino and against the likes of future Dynamo Zagreb and Anderlecht striker, Eddie Krncevic.

So where did it all go wrong on Santo's road to soccer stardom?

"I didn't have great concentration," he confessed. "These die-hard Italian coaches would often say to my father, 'Your son does some strange things', and I'd be out there during games practising my cricket bowling technique, throwing my arm over. For me, playing soccer was basically an exercise in mucking around."

After a brief period in the school team during which his true talent was finally recognised ("They put me straight into the firsts, I think mainly because I had an Italian surname"), his burgeoning career came to a grinding halt playing for Melbourne University.

"They put me in goals for a joke once," Santo recalled, laughing at the recollection. "I lost count after the other team scored their eleventh goal."

His soccer career hopes all but dashed, he settled down to a life of come-



dy, but off the field the game continued to have an impact on his life. In 1984 he found himself acting as interpreter for the touring Italian giants, Juventus.

"I went to their press conference and I was standing on the sidelines. The Juventus coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, was insisting he could handle the local media. 'No, no, no I speak English', he was saying. The first question came through with a thick Scottish accent and he just stared and had no idea."

"I threw myself into the fracas and translated it for him and then translated his reply back for the media. The same happened with the next question and before I knew it I was part of the entourage, staying at the hotel with them."

"It was one of the classic Juventus teams - Boniek was playing, Paolo Rossi, Tardelli, Gentile, Scirea. It was one of the highlights of my life."

"Oh yeah," Santo added, "Antonio Cabrini was in the squad too. He gave a rose to my girlfriend and that got me very upset. I'm married to her now though, so I'm one up on Cabrini there."

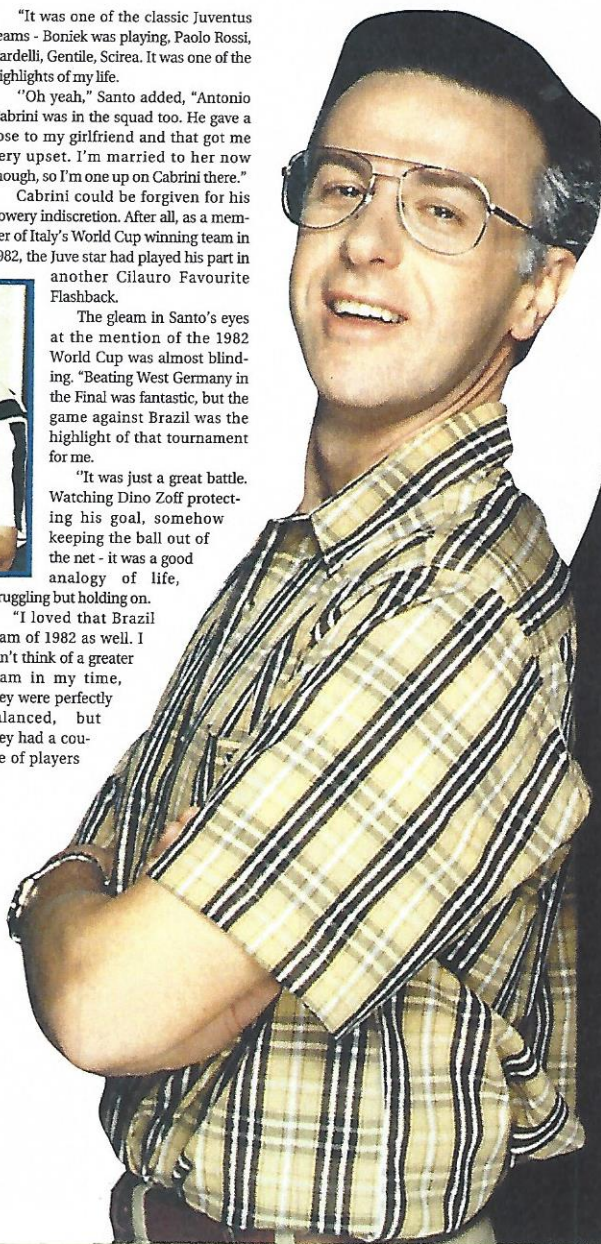
Cabrini could be forgiven for his flowery indiscretion. After all, as a member of Italy's World Cup winning team in 1982, the Juve star had played his part in another Cilauro Favourite Flashback.

The gleam in Santo's eyes at the mention of the 1982 World Cup was almost blinding. "Beating West Germany in the Final was fantastic, but the game against Brazil was the highlight of that tournament for me."

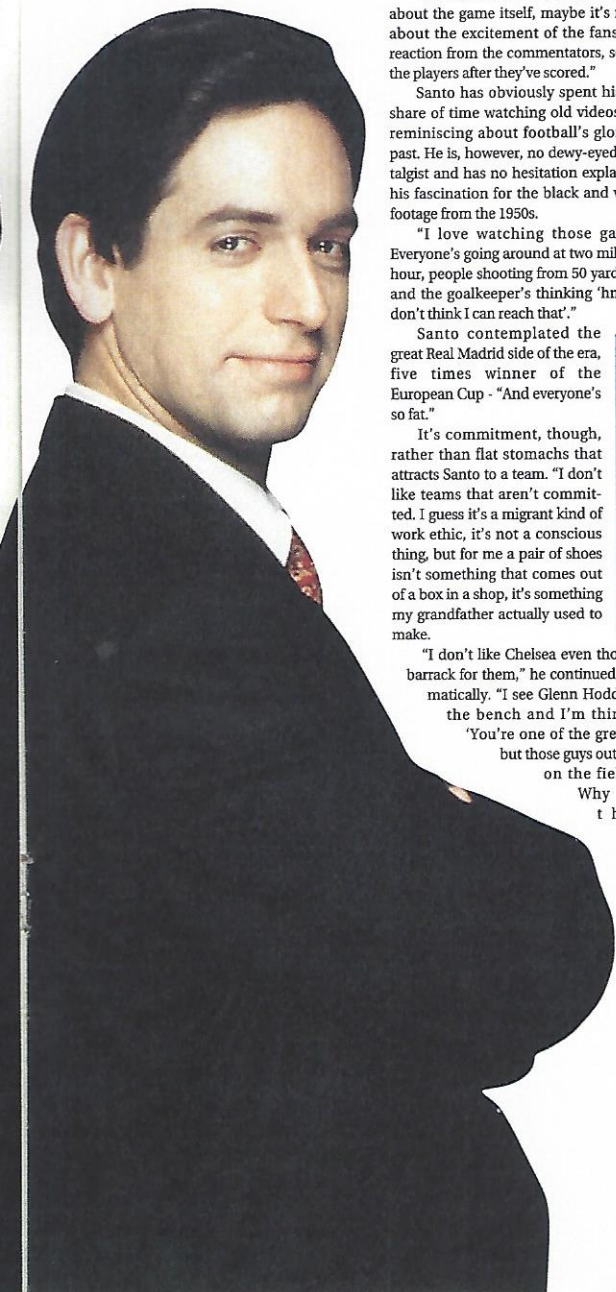
"It was just a great battle. Watching Dino Zoff protecting his goal, somehow keeping the ball out of the net - it was a good analogy of life,

struggling but holding on."

"I loved that Brazil team of 1982 as well. I can't think of a greater team in my time, they were perfectly balanced, but they had a couple of players



FRONTLINE



who were down on the day and I think they underestimated the Italians."

Despite being such an adoring fan, Santo has, importantly, found some ways of coping with defeat.

"I must admit I like it more when Italy loses," the former D-Generation star said. "That's more character building because you have to rebuild your life afterwards."

He also isn't afraid to ponder some of football's big questions - "It's hard to know what the appeal of winning the World Cup is."

"I don't know whether it's so much about the game itself, maybe it's more about the excitement of the fans, the reaction from the commentators, seeing the players after they've scored."

Santo has obviously spent his fair share of time watching old videos and reminiscing about football's glorious past. He is, however, no dewy-eyed nostalgist and has no hesitation explaining his fascination for the black and white footage from the 1950s.

"I love watching those games. Everyone's going around at two miles an hour, people shooting from 50 yards out and the goalkeeper's thinking 'hmm, I don't think I can reach that.'"

Santo contemplated the great Real Madrid side of the era, five times winner of the European Cup - "And everyone's so fat."

It's commitment, though, rather than flat stomachs that attracts Santo to a team. "I don't like teams that aren't committed. I guess it's a migrant kind of work ethic, it's not a conscious thing, but for me a pair of shoes isn't something that comes out of a box in a shop, it's something my grandfather actually used to make."

"I don't like Chelsea even though I barrack for them," he continued enigmatically. "I see Glenn Hoddle on the bench and I'm thinking 'You're one of the greatest, but those guys out there on the field...'. Why do they

always start the year off about 7th or 8th, and by the end of the season they're always on the verge of relegation?"

The form of Chelsea in England's Premier League isn't Santo's only current concern because, as he realises, he's living in a country where soccer is not quite number one.

Frontline's weatherman Geoffrey Salter may be happy enough to take life "four days at a time", but his alter-ego Cilauro knows soccer in Australia needs a more long term approach to enter the sporting mainstream here.

"I'm probably the wrong person to ask about soccer's future and its administration, because I'm such a bad administrator myself," he admitted.

"You look at the rise of basketball and there's no reason why soccer can't do that as well. Obviously you need to keep your core group of supporters, otherwise the whole structure will come crashing down around you."

"I think it's a generational thing, though. I find it hard to imagine saying to a friend my age, 'South Melbourne are playing Morwell Falcons - do want to go?' My generation has grown up with a particular attitude to soccer as a minor sport. So I don't think my generation

cer. Basketball has been marketed like that, I mean, I don't know why kids are attracted to basketball - maybe it's the shoes. But fashion and glamour are important to kids. Kids don't want to be dags."

Unfortunately, it would take more than sex appeal to get Santo along to many local games these days. "I'm just too busy," he admitted, "I'm working all the time."

But there's always the television. "I watch local games when I can, but I miss the atmosphere of actually being at the ground. I feel like I'm missing out on something."

"Still, I subscribed to pay-TV pretty quickly. I was talking to someone there and they were telling me about the movie channel and everything. I asked him about the sport and he said, 'We show Italian League matches a few hours after they're played'. Before he'd finished the sentence, I'd written out the cheque."

Santo may have trouble finding the time to watch much football nowadays, but he remains a dedicated student of the game.

"Soccer is a lot about dance and ritual. There's a rhythm about soccer, it comes in waves, whereas comedy is all about breaking down rhythm. I'm not surprised that there hasn't been a comedian who's become a star soccer player."

"And soccer players aren't usually very funny either." Santo's jealousy was coming to the fore. "Although Eric Cantona's a funny guy. I saw him on French television and I had the same feeling as when I saw Gerard Depardieu. I couldn't understand what he was saying, but

you could tell that he knew he was being funny. There aren't many other funny footballers, though."

Until soccer players get funnier, until there's a place on a football ground for easily-distracted defenders who like to refine their bowling technique while the action is at the other end of the field, perhaps it's best that the footballing talent of Santo Cilauro hasn't been displayed on the international stage.

In any case, Santo isn't one to dwell on what might have been. "You asked me about highlights of my playing career?" he pondered a couple of decades playing the round ball code, grateful that he had the success of Frontline to fall back on. "I think we can stop there."



should be so much the target audience.

"What soccer really needs is to be made more attractive to kids at school who are trying to choose a sport to play. You need to think about all the things that are an influence on kids, like fashion or the idea of becoming famous, the possibility of playing against Maradona one day."

Santo's manifesto started to take shape. "In some ways, our top soccer players going to Europe really helps the game seem appealing for young people, because there's a real glamour associated with being an overseas star. For instance, I got really excited by Ned Zelic's rise to fame."

"There has to be something sexy, something seductive about playing soc-


Mitre

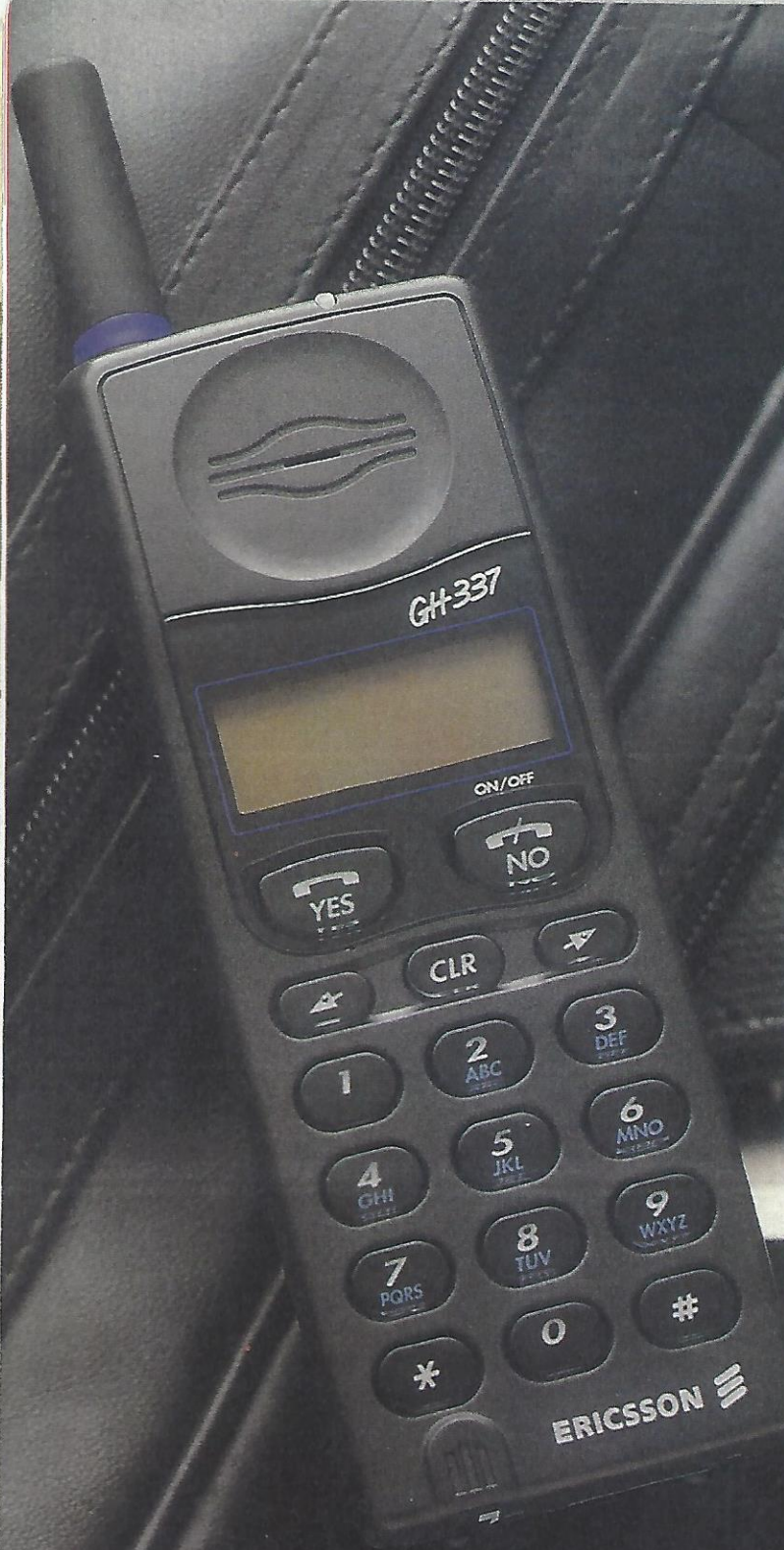




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Australians abroad: What is it really like?

A great deal has been made of the number of young Australians playing abroad today and the impact this is having on standards in Australian soccer. Roy Hay looks at the experiences of Australians abroad and tries to assess the pros and cons of playing in other parts of the world.

Of eight Australians registered with Premier League clubs in England, only goalkeepers John Filan at Coventry and Mark Bosnich at Aston Villa played in all of the first 10 rounds of the league.

For Filan, undoubtedly one of the highlights of his season so far was a shut-out against Liverpool at Anfield, and though he has been on the receiving end of a few goals behind Coventry's shaky defence, the more experience he can get the greater his chance of replacing the injured Steve Ogrizovic on a permanent basis.

Bosnich, as always, has had his highs and lows.

The Aston Villa Internet home page has the following biography of the talented keeper: "Bosnich's performances under Ron Atkinson at Villa once prompted the former manager to call him 'the best keeper in the world', and whether or not his former boss had tongue rooted in cheek at the time, the colourful Australian-Croat is held in high regard throughout the game.

"A club-versus-country row last season restricted his international appearances, but he was the first choice at Villa Park and remains so under Brian Little, who took over from Atkinson last season. Earned a reputation as something of a penalty expert (saving them, that is) during Villa's Coca-Cola Cup winning team of 1993-94, though much of last season was spent helping Villa shake off the threat of relegation."

Tony Dorigo at Leeds and Robbie Slater, transferred from champion Blackburn Rovers to West Ham United at the start of the season, played in six games out of 10, while Jason Kearton continued to understudy the ageless Neville Southall at Everton but could not force his way into the starting line-up.

Former West Adelaide star and Socceroo Stan Lazaridis, signed by West Ham in a flurry of publicity, only managed one start for his new club and a couple of appearances from the bench in the first 10 games, while Adem Poric made a number of appearances for Sheffield Wednesday last season, but has not played in the first team during the current campaign.

Injury has prevented Ned Zelic from making an impression at Queens Park Rangers after his expensive move from Bundesliga champion Borussia Dortmund. His optimism and willingness to do anything to establish himself has been in vain so far.

He said at the beginning of the season, "I'm looking forward to pulling on a Rangers shirt and doing a job for them. I don't care where I play - I'll be happy to play wherever Ray Wilkins puts me."



MARK BOSNICH



CRAIG MOORE



TONY AND AURELIO VIDMAR



NED ZELIC

Zelic recently played his first full game for QPR, in the club's away match at Southampton.

Even in the Endsleigh League Divisions One and Two, Australian internationals are not guaranteed regular positions in their respective club teams.

One of the most successful is Jason Van Blerk, an ever-present at Millwall as the Lions challenge for the lead in Division One.

Sometimes substituted when the club goes chasing goals late in a game, Van Blerk is highly regarded by the Lions' fans. Millwall's electronic fanzine, 'House of Fun', says of Van Blerk, "Stylish Aussie international with bags of talent, began to forge an unstoppable partnership with Mark Kennedy prior to Kennedy's sale to Liverpool.

"Cool headed, good anticipation, scores a reasonable tally of goals and sets up more than a few."

Another Australian with a regular starting position in Division One is Andrew Bernal at Reading.

Bernal, who clocked up 33 appearances in 1994-5, had the support of former Sydney Olympic coach Mick Hickman as development officer at Reading, a position

Hickman has now swapped for the role of first team coach at Leicester City under Mark McGhee.

Steve Corica's overseas career began in a blaze of glory at Leicester City. A goal inside 10 minutes in his first match and seven successive starts in the opening games seemed to set up a brilliant future for the attacking midfielder, but a broken leg in a league match at Port Vale has slowed his progress.

Meanwhile, Zeljko Kalac has arrived in Leicester but has struggled to displace Kevin Poole from the championship chasing team's goalkeeping spot.

At Sheffield United, former Adelaide City striker Carl Veart had an excellent season last year and started in four of the first five matches this season.

Since then he has been a regular in the squad, but usually has had to come off the bench. Defender Doug Hodgson has had a couple of starts to fill gaps caused by injuries to regular first-teamers, and has also had a stint on loan to Third Division Plymouth.

Two Young Socceroos have teamed up at Bristol City, David Seal, formerly with Marconi, and Paul Agostino, who was with Young Boys of Berne in Switzerland.

Seal began with a bang, scoring three goals in the Cup and four in the league, but recently he has been on the bench, as has Agostino. Problems facing the club off the pitch have probably not helped.

Frank Talia had five matches in goal at Swindon on loan from Blackburn Rovers, where he was unable to displace Bobby Mimms and England keeper Tim Flowers from the number one spot. Talia has since signed for Swindon in a \$265,000 deal.

Former Perth Italia defender, Shaun Murphy, is highly rated at Notts County in the Second Division. His skill and determination saw him voted the club's player of the year last season.

Fellow Western Australian David Oldfield from Perth has been a regular player in England with Luton Town, Manchester City, Leicester City, where he accumulated 188 games and 26 goals, and Millwall. At the start of this year the 27-year-old transferred from Leicester City to Luton Town.

In Scotland, the best known young Australian is Craig Moore at Glasgow Rangers. Moore has been in and out of the first team this season. His manager, Walter Smith, says he signed Moore as a centre-back and is happy to have him as one of the three players in that role in Rangers' formation.

Last season Moore tended to be used as a full-back. Moore played in the catastrophic four-one defeat by Juventus in the European Champions League, contributing a free kick which led to a spectacular goal by Del Piero, but he also defended well against the Italian maestros.

He also scored a critical goal after coming on as substitute in the league against Aberdeen. Yet he continues to struggle to obtain a regular starting position in the team.

If our young players are prepared to learn, to take the hard knocks, and to adapt to the peculiar style of the football played in the country to which they have emigrated, then they will make it. But it does not come easy and anyone who believes that an Australian international cap is an instant passport to overseas soccer success would be much better off staying at home.

Liverpool, for example, has been notorious for keeping millions of pounds worth of established international talent in its reserve team, sometimes for a whole season or more, before the players adapt to the Anfield style.

Young Australians should not despair if they don't crack it within a few months of arrival, no matter how much their club has paid for them. •

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Filan on fire

John Filan's form in the UK has drawn interest from some interesting quarters, as Patrick Mangan reports.

"Hi, you've called Oz's place..." the answering machine message is delivered down the line from England in a distinctly Australian accent.

The mystery voice belongs to John Filan, one of the most promising young goalkeepers this country has produced.

A few years ago, if you were an Aussie playing in the English Premier League with Coventry City, facing the likes of Dennis Bergkamp, Alan Shearer and Ian Rush on a weekly basis, there's a good chance you'd have been the first name on the Australian coach's team sheet for every international game.

Now, though, as Australia has simultaneously bred a whole generation of quality goalkeepers, a professional of Filan's capabilities finds Mark Bosnich, Zeljko Kalac, Mark Schwarzer, Frank Juric and Jason Petkovic, among others, all competing for the one place.

The Coventry keeper has become the forgotten man. "I was involved in the Olympic team a couple of years ago," he told Soccer Australia, "and there was a tour to the South Pacific. I was asked to go but I had a shoulder injury. Then I left to come here to England and I've not seen or heard from Eddie Thomson since. He's obviously got other people in mind for the team, so I can only wait and see."

And if Thomson did pick him? "I'd certainly consider it. It would depend on the game - the Premier League has to be my main priority, playing for Coventry is my career. Australia's got a lot of goalkeepers though, there are other keepers who've been over here in the English league for a while. Eddie Thomson is spoilt for choice, really."

In the midst of Filan's absence from the Socceroo scene, his Coventry manager Ron Atkinson has been doing some checking on Filan's family tree.

The Sky Blues already have a Zimbabwean, a Brazilian and a Ghanaian on their books, and because of the foreigner rule, the Premier League outfit was eager to have Filan registered as a local player.

Ireland's larger than life manager Jack Charlton, meanwhile, keen to boost his goalkeeping stocks, also did his homework on the Aussie shot-stopper.

Filan explained the situation. "I've got a Republic of Ireland passport

through my Irish grandfather. It made it easier to get work here in the U.K. because I didn't need any visas. Coventry and the Irish authorities have both been looking into my eligibility, but I've not heard anything since.

"It seems like there may be a problem because I played in the Olympic Games for Australia, in the qualifying matches as well as two games in Barcelona."

If Filan is ultimately declared eligible for Ireland, it will surely feel strange for the former St George star to pull on the green jersey for the Irish, having previously played in goal in numerous Australian teams.

"Sure," he explained. "I'm strongly supportive of Australia over here and if I was asked to play for Ireland I would certainly check first with my family and friends to see how they felt. If the situation did arise I'd give it serious

consideration, but until it does it's a bit hypothetical."

Australian soccer fans should hope the situation doesn't arise, particularly those who remember his sterling performances for the Olyroos. Filan played a significant role as anyone in the Aussies qualifying for Barcelona, most memorably in the famous game against Holland in Utrecht.

The match is rightly remembered for Ned Zelic's wonder goal from a ridiculously acute angle, but Zelic's heroics may have counted for nothing had Filan not been in commanding form at the other end of the ground.

The young keeper, whose only appearance for the senior Socceroos came in Uruguay in 1992, saved the Olyroos' skins only moments before Zelic sealed the game for Australia.

The Dutch captain, and now

established senior international, Arthur Numan was put through with just the goalie to beat. Filan dived bravely at Numan's feet to stop what seemed a certain goal.

Minutes later Zelic had carved himself a place in Australian sporting folklore and the Aussies were on their way to Barcelona. After that save John would have to be top of Ned's Christmas card list, wouldn't he?

"I think the whole side did really well," Filan laughed, deflecting the praise. "Ned got the majority of the coverage, and rightly so with the goal he scored. The papers had written us off, but as Ned agrees, it was a great team effort."

It was that performance, among others, that won Filan a contract in 1993 at the then First Division English club, Cambridge United. After a couple of successful years with Cambridge, Filan had a spell with Nottingham Forest on loan before Coventry paid United close to \$800,000 for his services.

His first game for the Midlands club remains the highlight of his Premier League career. "My debut for Coventry came at the end of last season. We were close to relegation and the manager decided to put me in the team against Tottenham at White Hart Lane. We needed the win and fortunately I played well, as did the rest of the team, and we won 3-1. And of course we ended up not getting relegated."

The 1995-96 season, though, hasn't proven to be any easier for the Sky Blues.

Currently near the relegation zone again, the club has needed Filan to be at his best, and although Coventry has conceded its fair share of goals, the Australian keeper can look back on shutouts against the might of Arsenal and Liverpool, among others, since the start of the season.

In spite of his team's indifferent form so far, Filan isn't intimidated by the challenges of the English Premier League.

"One of the good things about playing in the Premier is that teams are going out and buying world class strikers, and you'd struggle to find anywhere else with the kind of quality players there are here. Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand..."

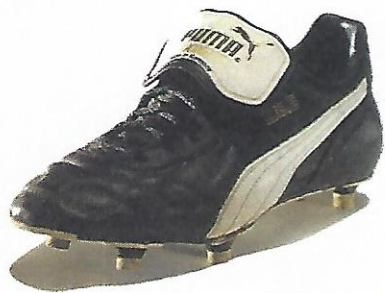
The young Aussie seems perfectly at home in this sort of company. "It's good stuff," is Filan's typically understated assessment. •



MILAN BLAGOJEVIC, NED ZELIC AND JOHN FILAN

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Heading for the top

Unlike many of his young colleagues, Robert Enes realises it takes time to reach the top in football and, as Ray Gatt reports, it seems his patience is going to pay off.

Admiration, awe and utter respect are qualities that come over as plain as day when you talk to cultured Olyroo and Sydney United midfielder Robert Enes.

While a surprising number of players today are reluctant to attribute a share of their new found success to outside influences, Enes is not among them.

Articulate, deep-thinking and personable, Enes does not fit the now commonplace, brash young-man-in-a-hurry stereotype.

Instead, he is polite, knows where he is going and, importantly, is prepared to acknowledge those people who have had a telling influence on his career and life.

And that's why Enes, 20, will forever pay tribute to former Socceroo great Oscar Crino, the man he credits with shaping his football career.

Enes talks about Crino, one of the most elegant midfielders this country has ever seen, with a reverence usually reserved for very special people.

"I was lucky enough to have Oscar as a coach during the early years of my career at Preston," Enes told Soccer Australia. "It was something else to have a person of his stature in the game passing on his great knowledge."

That was as a 15-year-old when Enes was involved in Preston's under-18 development team.

"I learned so much from Oscar because he opened up a new world for me," he added. "Obviously the South American influence was fantastic. It brought a new dimension to my game."

"I have always loved the ball at my feet and he was such a great player in that regard."

Enes admitted he has neglected somewhat the ball skills aspect of his game in recent seasons, but said he is determined to return to that style.

"Because of Oscar I always practised with the ball at my feet for 20 or 30 minutes at every training session before I got sidetracked, but I am going to re-invent that part of my game," Enes said.

Enes has had a meteoric rise in Australian football since he started playing as a seven-year-old in Shepparton. Times were tough early, especially when his father died at a young age.

But the football talent has always been there.

Enes worked his way from the juniors at Preston into its National Youth League squad in 1991 before winning a scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport under Ron Smith - another person who has played an important role in his career.



He returned to play with Preston in the Victorian Premier League in 1993 before following the overseas path taken by numerous young Australians.

Unfortunately, things turned sour and Enes was left with a bad taste in his mouth.

"I went to Germany with my manager and was training with Kaiserslautern, then one day my manager said to pack up because I was going to trial with another club because he had not got the deal we wanted," Enes said.

"But that wasn't what I wanted. I didn't want to be hawked from club to club like Stevie Corica. I had a bit of a groin injury so I packed up and went home instead."

Back in Australia Enes linked with the Melbourne Zebras and played 12 matches in the national league, but he was then left without a club when the Zebras were kicked out of the revamped and renamed Ericsson Cup.

In between, he played a prominent role as the Young Socceroos reached the quarter-finals of the World Youth Championship in Qatar.

"That was something special, even though it was pretty tough over there," Enes said.

Not surprisingly there were any number of takers for Enes' talents when the Zebras were axed, but it was Sydney United which eventually got the nod.

"I knew a couple of their players, it is a young club with a young coach and they appear to be headed places," he said, explaining his decision to join the Crows.

Enes, however, has taken a little time finding his feet.

"I have had a few problems on my mind, especially trying to find a place to live in Sydney," he said.

"That hasn't helped my football, but I am getting close to getting a place in Burwood and everything should work

factfile

NAME Robert Enes **AGE** 20
DOB 22.08.75 **POSITION** Midfielder
CLUB Sydney United
HEIGHT 180 cms **WEIGHT** 80 kgs

.....
 itself out from now on."

Enes said that, naturally, he would eventually like to play overseas.

"That is in my plans, of course," he said, "but I'm in no great hurry."

"I want to play at the Olympics and I'll probably have another season in Australia after this one. I've got time on my side."

In this day and age of kids trying to take short cuts to get to the top as fast as they can, it is refreshing to see a young man like Robert Enes prepared to do the hard yards and to deflect some credit on those people, like Oscar Crino, who have helped to fashion his career. ●

5-3-2: UTS Olympic



3-4-3: South Melbourne



4-4-2: Morwell Falcons



The system for

Tactics are becoming a key element in Australian soccer as the difference between top and bottom sides narrows every season.

Steve Darby gives a guide to the different playing systems on offer.

Soccer is booming in Australia. It is receiving increased coverage in the print media as well as increased electronic coverage on pay TV Optus Vision and SBS.

The tactical terms used by coaches are becoming more and more commonplace in our sporting culture. While this is good news for the average punter with an insatiable thirst for knowledge of the game, the new convert may not be sure of some of the terms used, and who can blame them?

If a coach says on a TV interview that a player like Paul Trimboli is great "sitting in" behind the front two, or Andy Harper is really dangerous when he gets a ball played "in the hole" for him to chase on to, what is an uninitiated fan to think?

I think of my own situation when I first watched Rugby League, which, despite being born 20 kilometres from Wigan, I never saw until I lived in Sydney.

Once Peter Sterling explained some of the tactics (and despite what some people think, there are tactics) on TV with his magic pen, I started to appreciate the game far more. Soccer must hope that there will be similar converts to our game.

For the soccer nut some of the terms that I am going to write about are common vocabulary, but for the ever-increasing new legions of fans this guide may help them see why the coach of their favourite Ericsson Cup team keeps shouting "keep your shape" to his team.

Systems of Play

All teams have a system of play and some, such as AC Milan, will always stick to it. Other, more flexible, teams will adapt to their opposition in order to counter their system.

It goes without saying, as England manager Terry Venables once commented, that if you can't kick or trap a ball it doesn't matter what system you play! The reality is that even Terry Venables has a rigid system called the Xmas tree, but that one will be explained later.

In the new 12 team Ericsson Cup the gap between the top and bottom teams has narrowed and tactical formations are becoming more and more important.

The local competition has some excellent coaches and the quality of play has been outstanding this season.

The best way to show the system is to use the Ericsson Cup players to illustrate the style. Remember, if your team is illustrated here it does not mean that it plays like this all the time, just that at some time in the past it has.

Also, most players now are flexible and have to fulfil many of the roles illustrated. It also doesn't mean that this is what I believe the best team is. Writing about soccer can be a mine field with dedicated fans!

Also, all systems are started from the back and never include the keeper.

5-3-2: UTS Olympic

In this system Blagojevic would be the sweeper or libero (a sweeper tends to play more defensively, a libero is the European term for free back. This player links into the midfield more quickly, such as Zelic for the Olyroos).

Ciantar and Orlie would be the markers with a defensive role to mark the opposition's two strikers.

The two wide men or full backs, Barrett and Meredith, have to "motor" up and down the flanks supporting their midfield three, hence they have to have great aerobic capacity or "engines".

In the midfield, the centre midfielder Milosevic would be the "play maker" with the other two midfield players, Tsekenis and Tome, supporting both the attack and defence in their zone of play.

The two strikers Trajanovski and Taliadoros have to score goals! But they also have to run off the ball to create space for oncoming midfield players and to slow down the opposition defence when they have the ball. This slowing down of the opposition is unseen by many fans but is invaluable to the team in getting its "shape" back.

3-4-3: South Melbourne

In this formation, the back three consists of the markers (Anthopoulos/Kuzmanovic) with Petersen sweeping as opposed to a libero.

Panopoulos and Sherifovski play like deep-lying wingers and the front three operate straight down the middle. In the case of this team, a player like Trimboli will sit behind the other two strikers and try to link in with Coveny who attacks from the middle. Damianos would "sit" in the middle to cover any breakdown in attack.

4-4-2: Morwell Falcons

4-4-2 is considered to be the classic formation played by teams like AC Milan. The back four operate in a "zonal" marking system with full backs (Marcina/Miller) getting forward. Usually if one full-back goes forward the other will stay, and the defence will slide across to cover.

Zone defence is more difficult to achieve than man-for-man marking and takes good coaching and needs intelligent defenders to achieve it.

Waddell sits in the midfield in a more defensive role but often arrives "late" to join in an attack or pick up the ball if it is cleared by the defence. Sevin and Tapai use their speed and aggression to carry the ball through midfield.

Spink is a player who has certain talents that the system is flexible enough to compensate for. Spink is one of the best strikers in the league and often stays on the last defender and times his runs to beat an offside trap.

You may not see Spink for five minutes but his next 30 seconds may be deadly. Bothwell has to have a high work rate to compensate for Spink playing this role.

5-4-1: The Soccerroos

The much maligned and much misunderstood system of Eddie Thomson's Soccerroos is now played by many national teams.

The key player in the system is Arnold. Whoever plays in this position has to have a high work rate to be effective, and has to have the ability to hold the ball for the supporting midfield players.

This is not a defensive system. In essence it usually operates best when you have an abundance of midfield players and players of high speed (Slater/Vidmar).

If the ball cannot be played out of defence (with numbers in midfield this is, in fact, easier) then it is played to the striker who "holds it up".

The midfield players then attack at speed to support the front man which makes them very difficult to "track back" and mark.

Often you may hear Vidmar called a great "half and half" player as he operates behind the striker and in front of the other midfield players. This system has been called negative because of the perception of one striker, but at the highest level it is essential that Australia does not concede too many goals.

Also the number of strikers does not dictate the number of goals - it is the number of players who arrive "in the box" for goalscoring opportunities that is the crucial factor.

The Xmas Tree: England

This system relies on the typical English "flat back four" playing in a type of zone; Ince is the defensive midfield player who acts as a "windscreen wiper".

Anderton and McManaman act as the wide players with the high work rate leaving the "ball players" such as Beardsley/Platt, Gascoigne/Le Tissier to support the lone striker, Shearer. This system is being rigidly stuck to by Venables in his long term preparation for the Euro 96 competition.

The term Xmas tree comes from the shape of the formation on paper.

The Diamond: Brazil 1994

All Brazilian national teams (including the youth and women's teams) play in this formation. When Brazilian teams stray from this system they tend not to have success.

The defence is a zonal back four. However, the key to the system is the two players who wear number five and ten. These players always operate in the positions of "anchor" (five) and "playmaker" (ten) in the midfield, with two players of a high work rate on the sides of the diamond.

In the 1994 World Cup qualifiers, Argentina played a similar system against Australia with Redondo and Maradona playing these roles.

When the playmaker gets the ball, the two strikers make their initial run away from the goal and this allows the playmaker to attack any gaps left by defenders marking the strikers.

The forward's next run is straight at the goal for a through ball from the playmaker.

Batistuta and Balbo of Argentina and Romario and Bebeto played these roles brilliantly in the 1994 World Cup.

An analysis of Romario's goals shows that he continually runs away from the goal to the width of the penalty box and then accelerates towards the goal, so he is always running for the ball at the goal and not away from it.

All systems are like a jigsaw, and if you haven't got players of the calibre of the South American number tens, then do not play this system.

Carlos Parreira, the Brazilian coach, said that to compensate for the lack of work rate of Romario and Bebeto, in defence he felt his key players were Dunga, Zinho and Silva whose high work rate allowed the two strikers to be at their most deadly.

Systems are a means to an end, and there is the perennial discussion among coaches about whether you should choose a system and fit your players in it, or choose your players and then adapt a system.

AC Milan play 4-4-2 and Baggio and Weah have had to fit into it. However, a national coach may have to do the opposite as his best players at an international level may be overloaded in one area.

It's all immaterial if your opposition is better, quicker and fitter than you, but in quality leagues such as the Ericsson Cup, when all teams are similar, the tactics may be the vital last part of the jigsaw to success. •

Success



**5-4-1:
The Soccerroos**

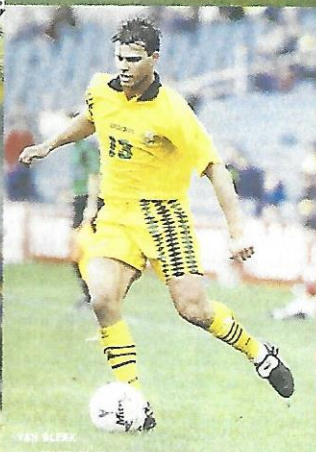
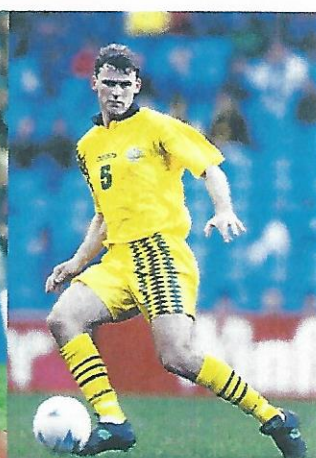
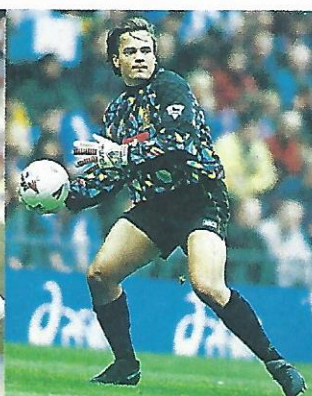
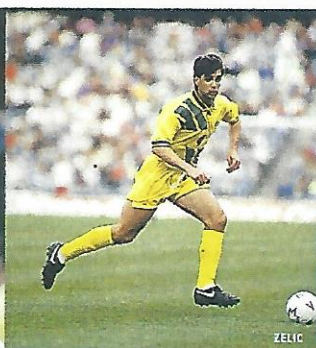


**The Xmas Tree:
England**



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Europe's 'super six'

Since its inception in 1955 the European Cup has been the only real barometer by which to measure true greatness.

Philip Micallef compares the greatest sides to adorn the most glamorous competition in world club soccer.

One of the less rewarding jobs a football journalist can undertake is to try to compare great teams from different eras.

More often than not the result of this exercise will lead you to exactly the same spot you were in before you started – nowhere.

It's a bit like trying to establish who was the best actor or painter in the world or which is the world's most beautiful city. It's mostly a matter of perception and taste.

But one thing is clear; there are probably only six teams that have the right to consider themselves the most successful in Europe.

They have the runs on the board, they played with a style that was liked by all and, perhaps most importantly, they were trend-setters.

The special six are Real Madrid in the late 50s, Benfica in the early 60s, Ajax in the early 70s, Bayern Munich in the mid 70s, Liverpool in the late 70s and early 80s and AC Milan in the late 80s and early 90s.

The quality and standing of these formidable sides were such that the achievements of Internazionale, Feyenoord, Nottingham Forest, Manchester United, Glasgow Celtic, Juventus and Barcelona pale into insignificance when compared with the exploits of the "super six".

They had great managers, world-class players, mass followings, universal appeal and that rare quality which is found in only the greatest of teams – an ability to win even when not playing at one's best.

► **ALFREDO DI STEFANO**
scores a goal.



Real Madrid (Spain)

1955 to 1960

European Cup: 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960.
Spanish League: 1955 1957 1958

Soccer's sentimentalists still regard the Madrineros as the best ever club side in the world, and not without justification.

The sheer artistry of the football which earned them an unequalled five European Cups on the trot was a joy to behold.

Modernists might say that Real would have struggled to reproduce that type of football today. That may or may not be true. The fact remains, though, that in the era they played they were the absolute masters of their trade with a type of virtuoso football that has not been seen again.

In Alfredo Di Stefano they had a born leader who was a midfielder, a striker and a great captain at the same time. In flying winger Francisco Gento they had a player who could torment opponents with his speed and dribbling skills. And in centre-half Santamaria they had a defender whose vision and elegance at the back

were emulated only once, by Franz Beckenbauer.

Real scored many epic wins during their golden reign, including a marvellous 3-2 win over AC Milan in the 1958 Final, but they reached their peak in the 1960 Final in Glasgow against Eintracht Frankfurt of West Germany, whom they beat 7-3 in probably the best European Cup Final of the lot.

Hungarian ace Ferenc Puskas, who could fire rockets with his left foot, was the star of that memorable game, scoring four goals in an unparalleled performance.

Benfica

1960 to 1965

European Cup: 1961 1962
Portuguese League: 1960 1961 1963 1964 1965

► **EUSEBIO**



It took a great team to knock the Spaniards from their pedestal in 1961, and this side came from neighbouring Portugal - Benfica.

The Lisbon side managed to become European champions after beating Barcelona 3-2 in a dramatic Final. The Portuguese confirmed their status by winning the next competition after outlasting Real Madrid in a stupendous Final in Amsterdam.

This time Benfica had in



◀ **BENFICA'S** Crux, Germano and Di Stefano.

their ranks a Mozambique-born forward called Eusebio, who packed as hard a shot as Puskas. The Hungarian "Galloping Major" got a hat-trick in the Final but Eusebio's two goals in four minutes midway through the second half gave Benfica a 5-3 win.

The nucleus of the Benfica side, led in midfield by "general" Mario Coluna and marshalled in defence by strongman Germano, was so strong that most of the players in the team helped Portugal finish a creditable third in the 1966 World Cup in England.

Benfica's European reign did not last long. The side continued to dominate domestic football in the 60s and reached three more European Cup Finals in 1963, 1965 and 1968 before the team grew old and eventually faded away.

But the wonderful memories of Benfica's brand of football, and "Black Panther" Eusebio's powerful shooting, will last forever.

Ajax Amsterdam

1970 to 1973

European Cup: 1971 1972 1973
Dutch League: 1970 1972 1973

The Dutchmen came on the scene when world football was infested with catenaccio, the defensive system that nearly killed the game as a spectacle.

Ajax's "total football" put the sparkle back in the game and its three European Cup triumphs were greeted with delight universally.

Johan Cruyff and his band of merry men were simply in a class of their own. Nobody seemed to be able to cope with their open style based on aggression, commitment and an obsession to play the game in the opponents' half.

On the tactical front Ajax also confounded most teams, especially the rigid Italians, with its players' ability to change roles according to the needs of the moment.

There was no such thing as a fixed full-back, midfielder or striker at Ajax. All players could do a bit - some of them more than a bit - of everything.

The club's greatest victories came against Glasgow Celtic and Atletico Madrid in 1971, Arsenal and Internazionale in 1972 and Bayern Munich and Real Madrid in 1973.

Some of the names in Ajax's marvellous side are now part of soccer folklore - classy fullback Ruud Krol, defensive linchpin Barry Hulshoff, midfield dynamos Arie Haan and Johan Neeskens and strikers Johnny Rep, Piet Keizer and, of course, Cruyff.



► **KAIZER** and Haan with the '72 Champions Cup.



◀ **CRUYFF** and Barry Hulshoff with the '73 Champions Cup.



◀ **NEESKENS**

► **BECKENBAUER**
and Hansen after the
'76 Champions Cup.



Bayern Munich 1972 to 1976

European Cup: 1974 1975 1976
German League: 1972 1973 1974



► **BECKENBAUER**

The German champions had arguably the greatest collection of individual stars to adorn a European Cup-winning team.

Led at the back by the majestic Beckenbauer – who gave a new interpretation to the libero role – Bayern had a world-class goalkeeper in Sepp Maier, a world-class fullback in Paul Breitner and a world-class goalpoacher in Gerd Müller.

Needless to say the Bavarian side provided most of the players that made West Germany champions of Europe in 1972 and world champions in 1974.

Bayern's game was based on sheer power, ruthless efficiency and an uncanny ability to play for a result.

But Bayern sometimes blotted its copybook by its methods, which were sometimes too cynical.

In the 1975 Final against Leeds in Paris, Bayern was on the receiving end for most of the match and survived a hot penalty appeal before twice catching the English champions on the break to win 2-0.

But the Germans could be irresistible when they wanted or needed to be. In the 1976 quarter-finals they crushed Benfica 5-1 in Munich after a draw in Lisbon on their way to a pulsating Final in Glasgow against St Etienne, where a direct freekick from midfielder Franz Roth gave them a 1-0 win and their third straight title.

Bayern was beginning to look unbeatable when it fell in the quarter-finals to the Soviet Union's Dynamo Kiev the following year. An era had ended and a new one was about to start...

Liverpool 1976 to 1984

European Cup: 1977 1978 1981 1984
English League: 1976 1977 1979 1980 1982 1983 1984



► **GRAEME SOUNESS**
and Neal in action

The English champions were probably the least sophisticated side of the elite six, but they had a great ability to pressure the opposition into submission with a type of "no frills" football based essentially on teamwork, non-stop football and doing the simple things right.

For sheer consistency and expertise, Liverpool was easily the best team to come out of Britain since the end of World War II.

It could adapt from the "blood and thunder" game in England to the requirements of the European game without any hint of disruption.

This asset was demonstrated no more emphatically than in the 1984 Final against Roma in Rome.

Liverpool had just won the First Division title after a hard season and was jaded and not expected to survive at the hostile Olympic Stadium.

But experienced Liverpool played a superb tactical game. Scottish midfielder Graeme Souness marked Brazilian schemer Roberto Falcao (although Souness would not admit this: "Falcao was



► **NEAL**, Hughes
and Case with the
'77 Champions Cup.

marking me", he told Soccer Australia last year) and Liverpool slowly took the bite out of the home team, winning the contest on penalties.

Liverpool had many heroes in an amazing nine-year spell that landed them four European Cups and seven First Division titles.

Steve Heighway became the modern-day Gento with his darting runs on the left and incisive crosses. The lively Kevin Keegan embodied the Liverpool spirit and, in his last match for the club, ran rings around Borussia Moenchengladbach's Berti Vogts in the 1977 Final in Rome.

Kenny Dalglish struck a fabulous goal in the 1978 Final against Bruges at Wembley. Souness established himself as a rare "hardman with class" in the 80s, while ace opportunist Ian Rush grabbed many key goals at home and abroad.

It was a complete team that was never seriously affected by changes in coaching and playing personnel over the years.

AC Milan 1988 to 1994

European Cup: 1989 1990 1994
Italian League: 1988 1992 1993 1994

The Italian champions took the European scene by storm in the late 80s with their pressing and offside game that embodied the best of two worlds: solid Italian-style defence and relentless Dutch-style attack.

Backed by millions of dollars from media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, Milan set about nurturing and buying the best players in the world in a bold bid to return to the top of world club football and stay there. Milan had won the European Cup in 1963 and 1969 but failed to build on that success.

Local products Franco Baresi and Paolo Maldini were joined by Dutch imports Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten as Milan began to destroy the best teams in Europe with their slick soccer.

The 4-0 victory over Steaua Bucharest in the 1989 Final in Barcelona, coming after a 5-0 rout of Real Madrid in the semi-final, ranks with the best European performances of all time. Van Basten and Gullit scored twice each as Milan ripped the rugged Romanians apart.

The Milanese masters repeated their success in 1990 when they beat old rivals Benfica 1-0 in Vienna, but disgraced themselves in 1991 when they tried to get their quarter-final return game in Marseille replayed because of a partial light failure.

Milan were suspended by UEFA for a year but came back in 1993 with a vengeance. After winning the 1992 Italian league unbeaten, they won all their matches leading up to the 1993 European Cup Final but lost 1-0 to bogey-team Marseille in Munich.

Milan made amends a year later when Dejan Savicevic, the former Red Star maestro who had become the star of the team since a serious injury to Van Basten, inspired his team to a formidable 4-0 win over Barcelona in Athens.

He made the opening goal for Daniele Massaro and scored another with an outrageous lob from near the touchline that beat goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta. •



► **BERLUSCONI** with the
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Courage *unlimited*

After an almost unbelievable run of injuries and mishaps which would have ended the careers of lesser men, Paul Souris is back. The courageous defender spoke to Ray Gatt about his frustrating past and promising future.

There were times over the last two or three seasons when tough Marconi Fairfield defender Paul Souris wondered what he had done to upset the gods of good fortune.

There can be no doubt that few players in the Ericsson Cup have had to endure the sort of pain, suffering, frustration and mental anguish that this superbly talented young man has experienced.

Had it been any normal person, and not someone with an iron-fisted determination and will-to-win, Souris would have long disappeared from the ranks of the national league.

Paul's story is remarkable given that, by rights, no-one would have blamed him if he had simply said "enough is enough", chucked his boots in the nearest rubbish bin and bid farewell to the game.

It all began midway through 1993 when he broke his leg playing in the NSL off-season for Canterbury in the NSW State League.

Souris had gone on loan to the Berries after a successful season with Parramatta Eagles.

But disaster struck when he was involved in a perfectly legal tackle with Parramatta team-mate Michael Reda, who was on loan to Rockdale.

Paul instantly knew it was a bad injury. His right tibia, the inner and thicker of the two bones below the knee, snapped in half and he went under the surgeon's knife that night.

The doctor inserted a plate and eight screws and that was the beginning of what he now describes as "the biggest challenge of my life".

While he knew he would not be fit for the first half of the new NSL season, Souris was determined to make it for the latter part. He worked day and night for eight months.

Such is the toughness of the man that, eventually, with the metal plate still



in place he tried to make a comeback with the Eagles. But he had to give up "because the plate was brushing up against my skin".

Another operation to remove the plate and screws made sure he did not step on the football field at all for the 1993-94 season.

The hard work continued in the off-season leading up to the 1994-95 season, and Souris finally got back into shape to take his place with Rale Rasic's Eagles.

Things started to look up for the first time in a long time and Souris, who had played four matches as a substitute with Eddie Thomson's Olyroos in 1991, was ready to show why he had earned a reputation as one of the fastest and fiercest defenders in the competition.

But disaster was again lurking around the corner. He played the first 10 matches of the season before being forced out with an uncomfortable, but still innocuous, in-grown toe nail.

Unfortunately, the toe became badly infected and there were real fears at one stage that he would have to have it amputated.

Paul missed eight matches and

would have been out longer had Parramatta not been going through a rough time on the field.

"I tried to come back too quick," he recalled. "But I wanted to help the club and Rale because we had suffered a lot of injuries."

In his first match back he strained his thigh muscle and aggravated it when he continued playing for another two games. Eventually he was forced out for the rest of the season.

"That whole situation starting with the broken leg was, without a word of a lie, one of the toughest periods of my life," he recounted for Soccer Australia.

"I thought I was being punished for something I had done wrong."

Thankfully, that is all behind the 24-year-old and things are certainly starting to look good for him ... and not before time.

He has gone into partnership in a take-away shop at Mortdale with his future father-in-law and he is due to be married to Olivera in eight months.

"We are in the process of building a house at Menai and that, along with what is now happening in my football

career, goes some way to making up for what has happened to me over the last two seasons," he added.

Souris has now linked with Marconi and coach Manfred Schaefer, the man who gave him his chance in the NSL with Apia Leichhardt in 1991.

His speed, strength and ability to keep even the best of strikers quiet will make him a key player in Marconi's drive for the championship.

"I couldn't be happier," he said. "I've played four full matches and Manfred is terrific. It's a great club and I am enjoying playing in such a professional set-up."

Schaefer had given Souris his chance at Apia after Souris' mentor, Rasic, had recommended him to Schaefer. Souris had been playing for Rasic's club Yugal in the NSW State League at the time.

After just two matches in the League, he was drafted into the Olyroo squad and toured Australia during a series of matches in the lead-up to the Oceania Barcelona Olympic Games qualifiers.

While he did not make the squad, Souris said he was delighted to have tasted representative football.

"It is certainly something I want to do again," he said. "Like every player in Australia, I want to play for my country and hopefully I can do well enough to play for the Socceroos."

One of his biggest assets is that he is so versatile. Souris can play sweeper, central defence or fullback, but prefers the stopper's role because "I can be more aggressive and I can demolish the strikers".

Given all his bad luck, it is good to hear Paul talking about football rather than his misfortunes.

Heaven knows, after what he has gone through, he deserves to have the gods smiling on him for a change. ♦

factfile

FULL NAME Paul Souris **AGE** 24
DOB 02.08.71 **POSITION** Defender
CLUB Marconi Fairfield
HEIGHT 177cms **WEIGHT** 75 kgs

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81-87 King William Street
Fitzroy, Victoria. 3065 Australia
PO Box 200 Carlton South
Melbourne, Victoria. 3053
Tel: 03 9415 1181
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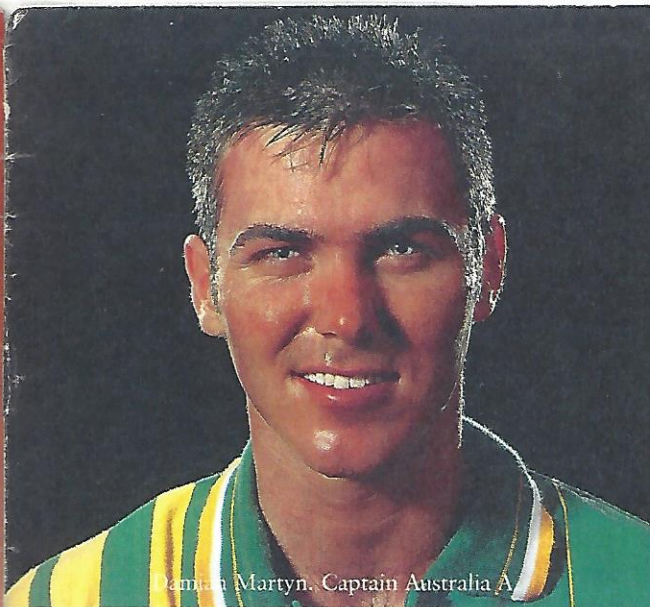
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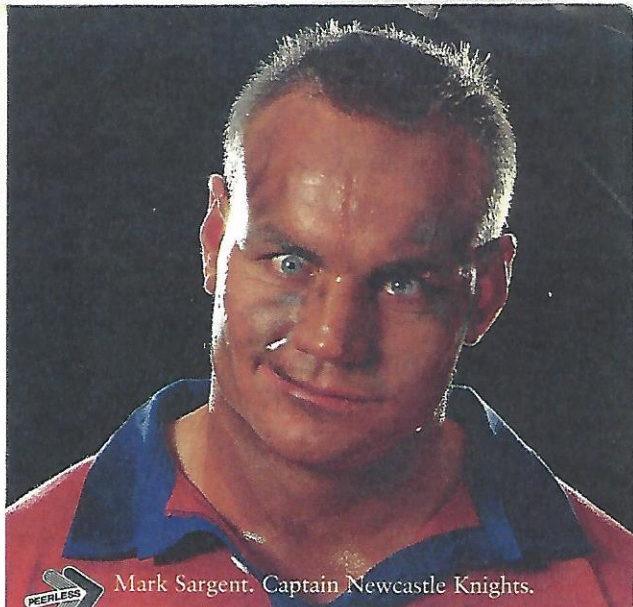
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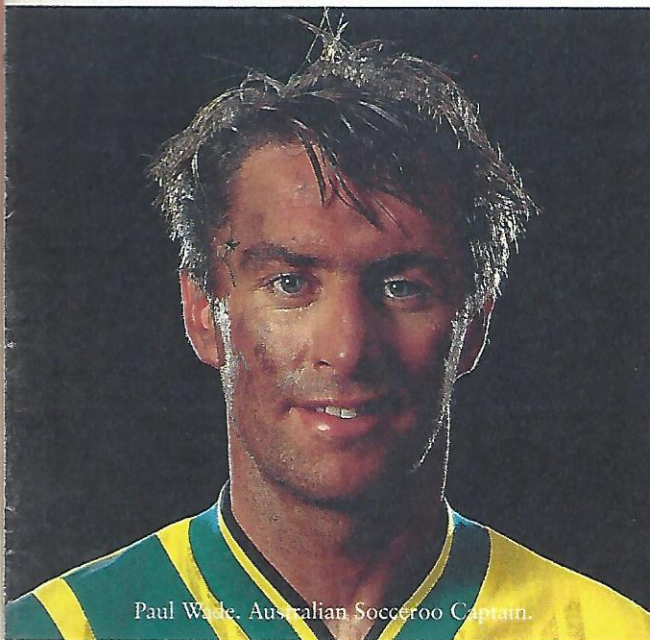
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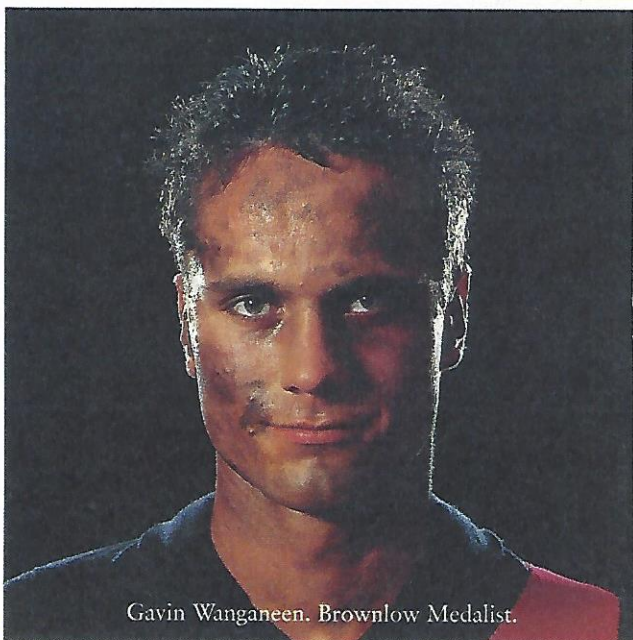
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